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As seen on
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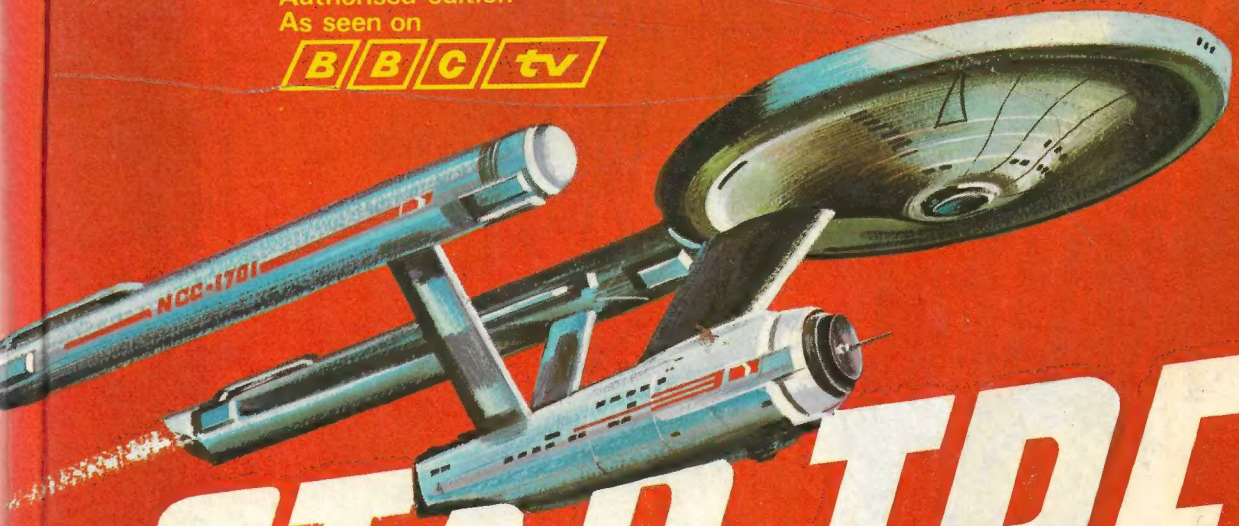

STAR TREK
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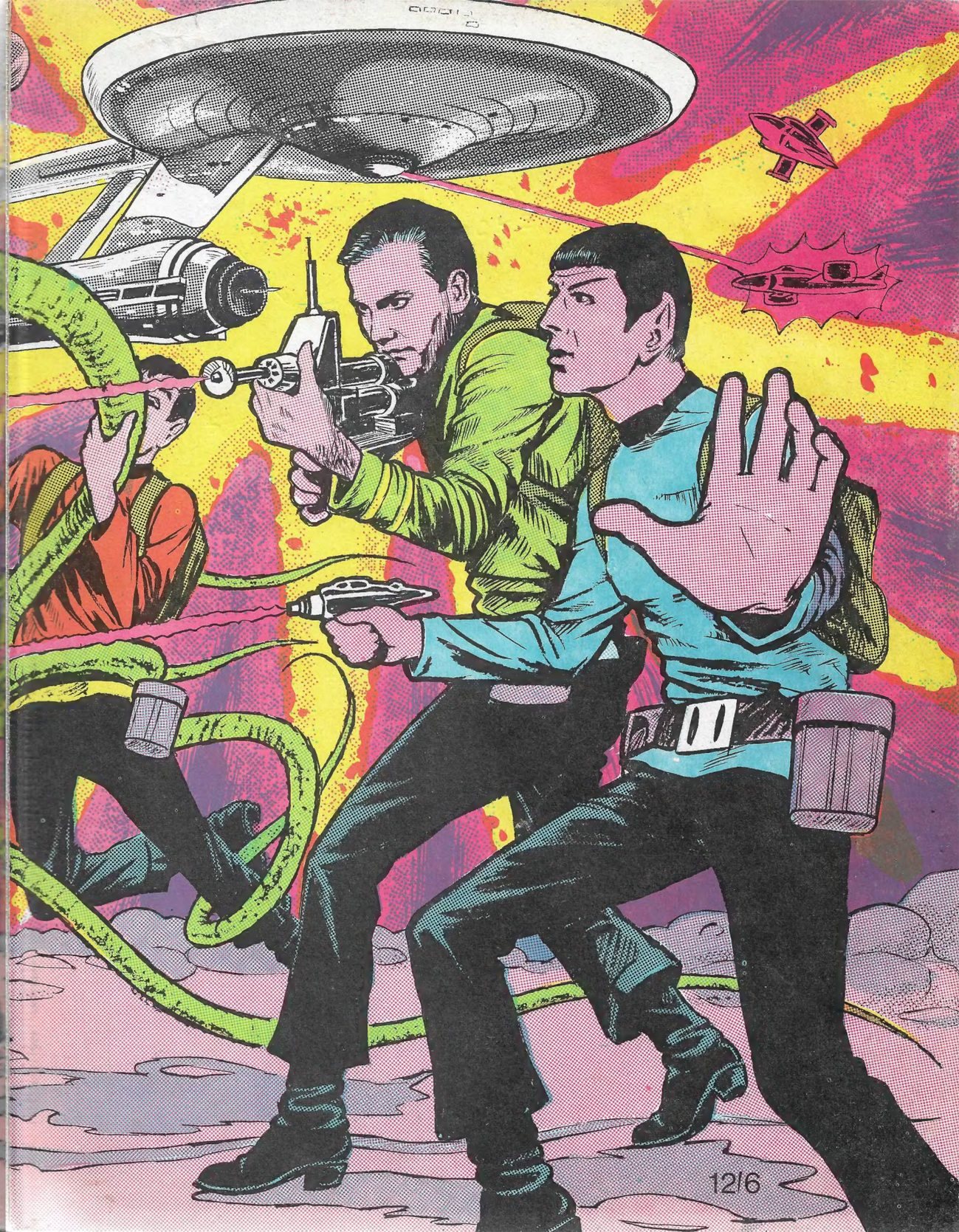
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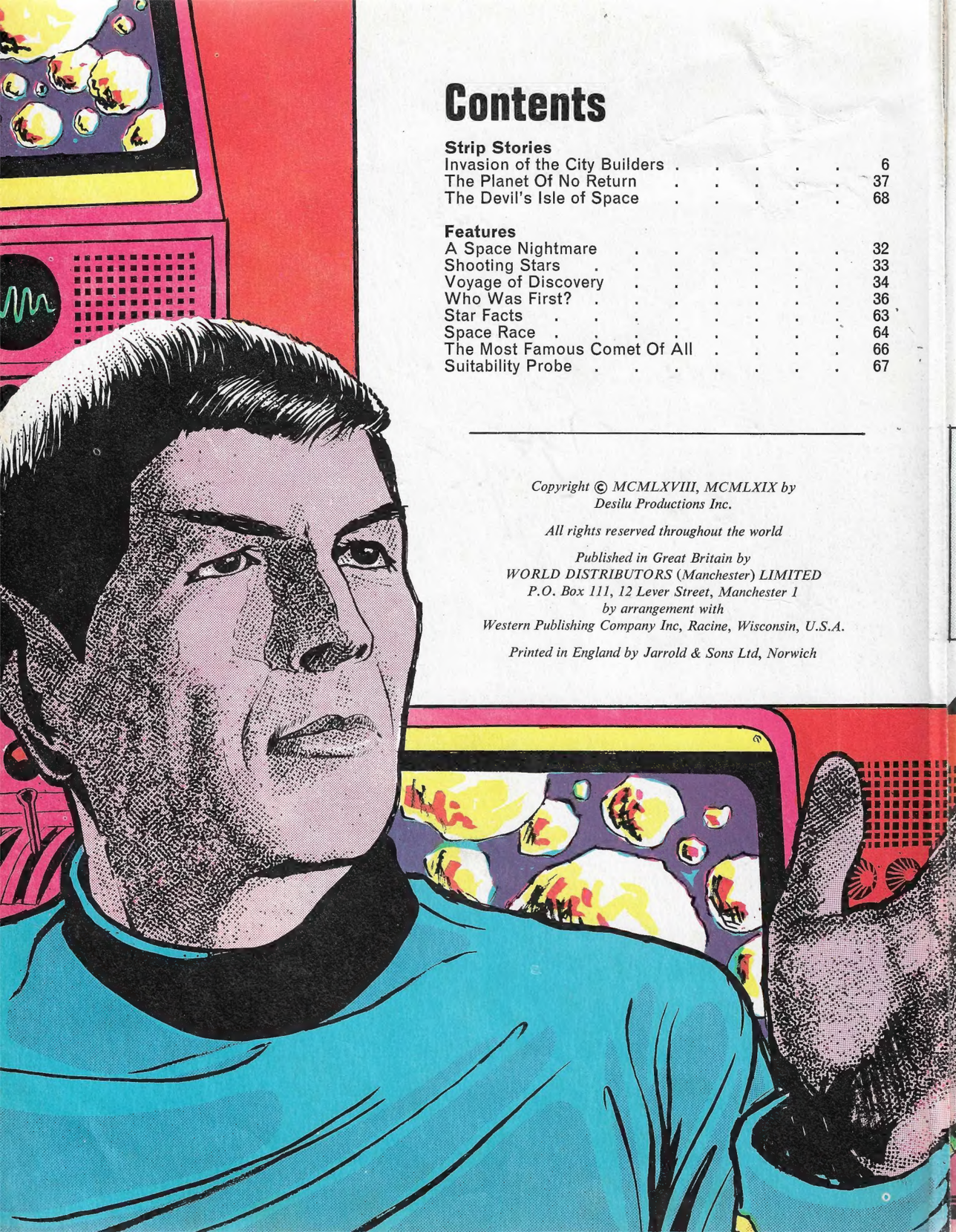
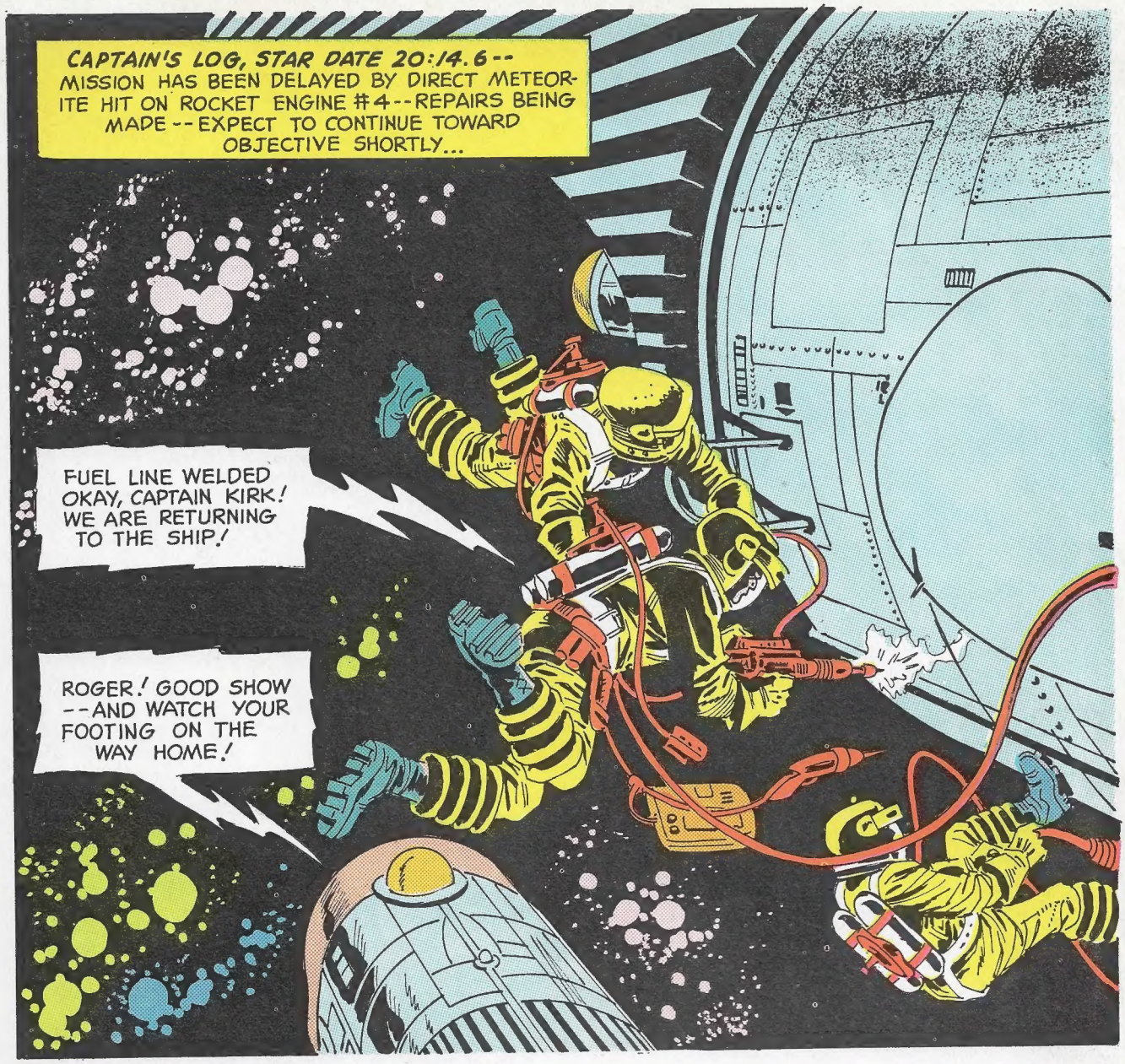


STAR TREK

INVASION OF THE CITY BUILDERS

PART I

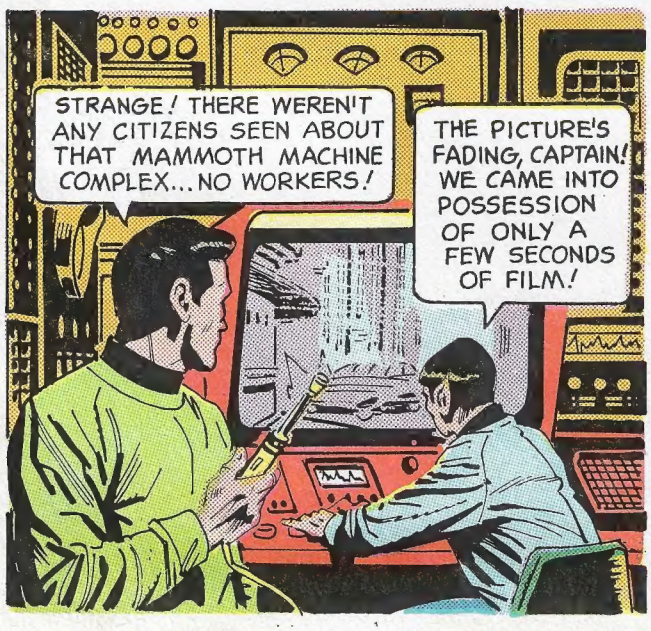

CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE 20:14.6 -- MISSION HAS BEEN DELAYED BY DIRECT METEORITE HIT ON ROCKET ENGINE #4 -- REPAIRS BEING MADE -- EXPECT TO CONTINUE TOWARD OBJECTIVE SHORTLY...
FUEL LINE WELDED OKAY, CAPTAIN KIRK! WE ARE RETURNING TO THE SHIP!
ROGER! GOOD SHOW -- AND WATCH YOUR FOOTING ON THE WAY HOME!

WE'RE ON COURSE AT FULL SPEED AGAIN, MR. SPOCK! NOW LET'S CONTINUE WITH OUR RESEARCH ON ALPHA Z-21—PLANET QUESTIONMARK!
I'LL INSERT THE FILMED PLANETARY HISTORY FILE!

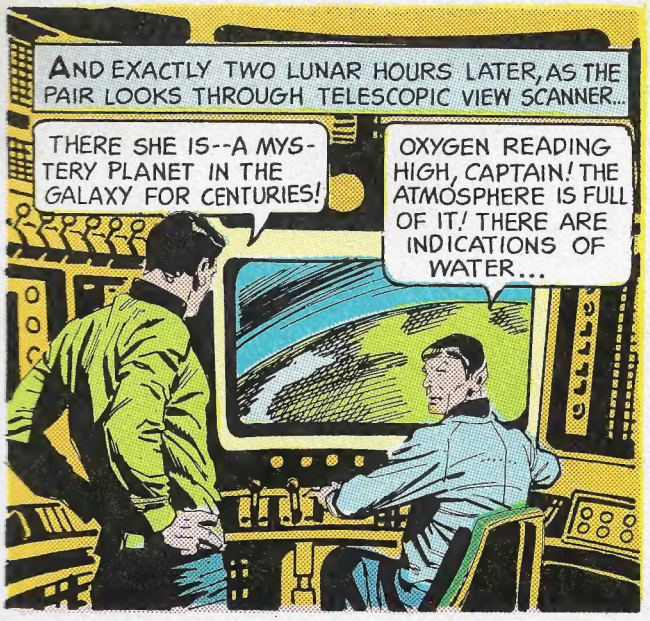
ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO A DEEP GALAXY SHIP MANAGED TO SEND THESE RADIO FILMS BACK TO A MOTHER SHIP BEFORE APPARENTLY EXPLODING!

THEN, AS THE RADIO-PHOTO FILMS TAKEN A CENTURY BEFORE FLOOD A PICTURE ON THE SCREEN...
EVIDENTLY THE SPACE-SHIP WAS RECONNOITERING THE PLANET AT LOW ALTITUDE AND USED A TELESCOPIC CAMERA!
A BANK OF ULTRA-MODERN MACHINES...
THEY APPEAR TO BE WORKING TOGETHER IN SOME SORT OF A MECHANICAL COMPLEX!

THE CITIZENS! OBVIOUSLY THEY'RE OF A HIGH CIVILIZATION... BEING WAITED ON BY MACHINES!
YES-S, MR. SPOCK! IT LOOKS AS IF THEY BELIEVE IN A LIFE OF COMFORT!

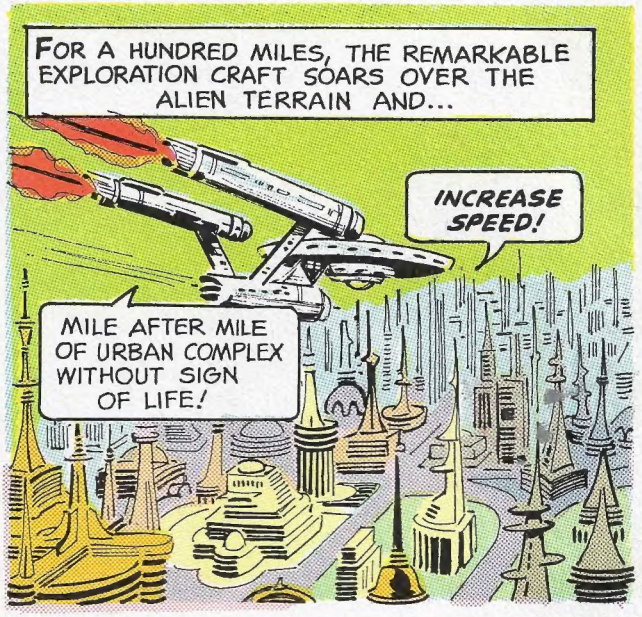

STRANGE! THERE WEREN'T ANY CITIZENS SEEN ABOUT THAT MAMMOTH MACHINE COMPLEX... NO WORKERS!
THE PICTURE'S FADING, CAPTAIN! WE CAME INTO POSSESSION OF ONLY A FEW SECONDS OF FILM!

CAPTAIN TO CONTROL! WHAT IS OUR ESTIMATED ARRIVAL TIME AT ALPHA Z-21?
TWO LUNAR HOURS ONE GALAXY MINUTE, SIR!

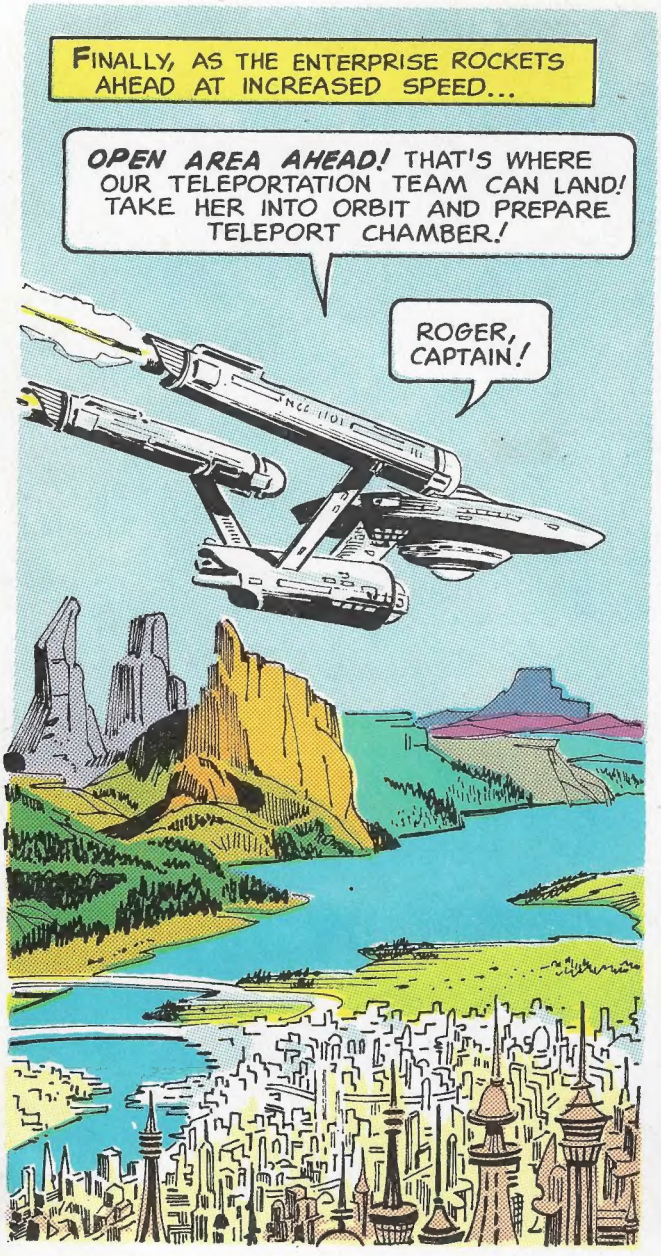

AND EXACTLY TWO LUNAR HOURS LATER, AS THE PAIR LOOKS THROUGH TELESCOPIC VIEW SCANNER...
THERE SHE IS--A MYSTERY PLANET IN THE GALAXY FOR CENTURIES!
OXYGEN READING HIGH, CAPTAIN! THE ATMOSPHERE IS FULL OF IT! THERE ARE INDICATIONS OF WATER...

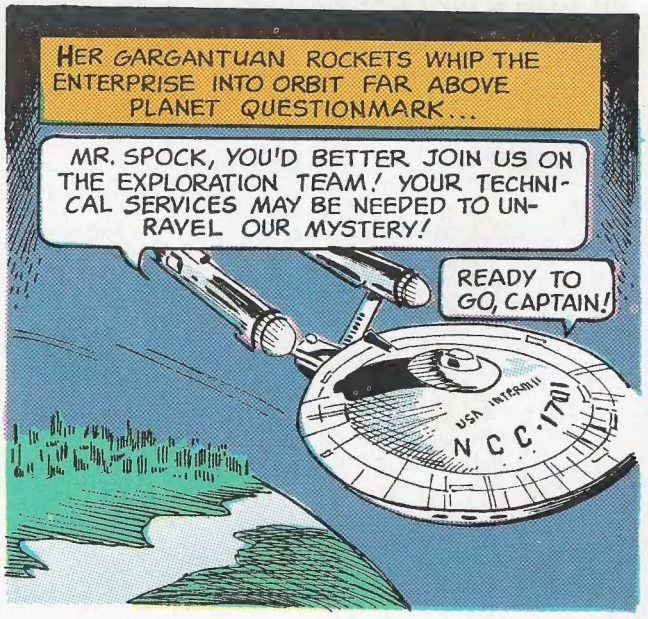
ROGER, MR. SPOCK!
CUT SPEED AND BRING HER DOWN, CONTROL!
...AND ALSO LARGE MASSES OF METALLIC MATTER OVER THE PLANET.!

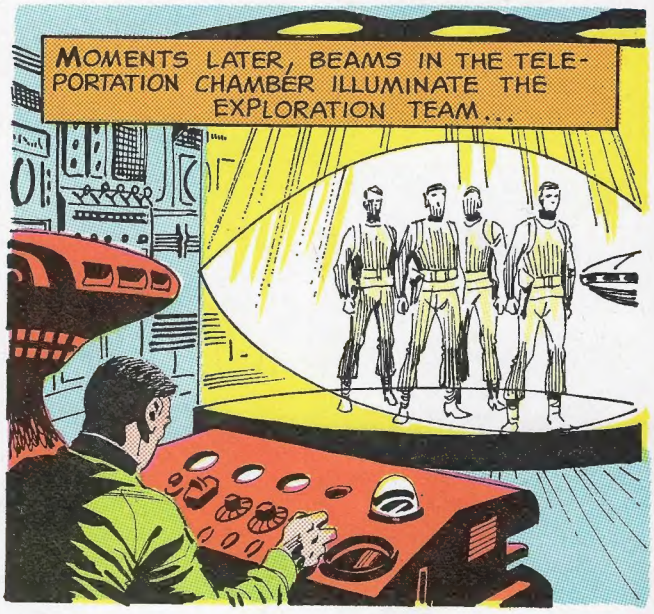
LIKE A GLISTENING WHITE COMET, THE ENTERPRISE CUTS THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE AND GLIDES ACROSS THE PLANET...
WE'VE COME IN OVER SOME SORT OF SUPER-CITY! CAN YOU MAKE OUT ANY LIFE, MR. SPOCK?
NOTHING, CAPTAIN!

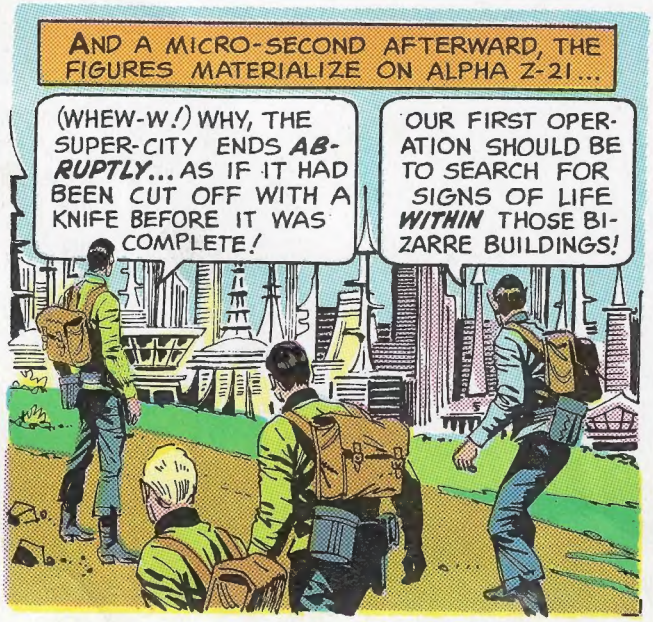

FOR A HUNDRED MILES, THE REMARKABLE EXPLORATION CRAFT SOARS OVER THE ALIEN TERRAIN AND...
INCREASE SPEED!
MILE AFTER MILE OF URBAN COMPLEX WITHOUT SIGN OF LIFE!

BUT STILL ANOTHER NINE HUNDRED MILES LATER
BUILDING AFTER BUILDING, STREET AFTER STREET... EMPTY, BARREN! WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT, MR. SPOCK?
UTTER BEWILDERMENT! THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF A CATASTROPHE, THE STRUCTURES SHOW NO DECAY! MOST PERPLEXING!


FINALLY, AS THE ENTERPRISE ROCKETS AHEAD AT INCREASED SPEED...
OPEN AREA AHEAD! THAT'S WHERE OUR TELEPORTATION TEAM CAN LAND! TAKE HER INTO ORBIT AND PREPARE TELEPORT CHAMBER!
ROGER, CAPTAIN!
NCC-1701


HER GARGANTUAN ROCKETS WHIP THE ENTERPRISE INTO ORBIT FAR ABOVE PLANET QUESTIONMARK...
MR. SPOCK, YOU'D BETTER JOIN US ON THE EXPLORATION TEAM! YOUR TECHNICAL SERVICES MAY BE NEEDED TO UNRAVEL OUR MYSTERY!
READY TO GO, CAPTAIN!
USS INTREPID
NCC-1701

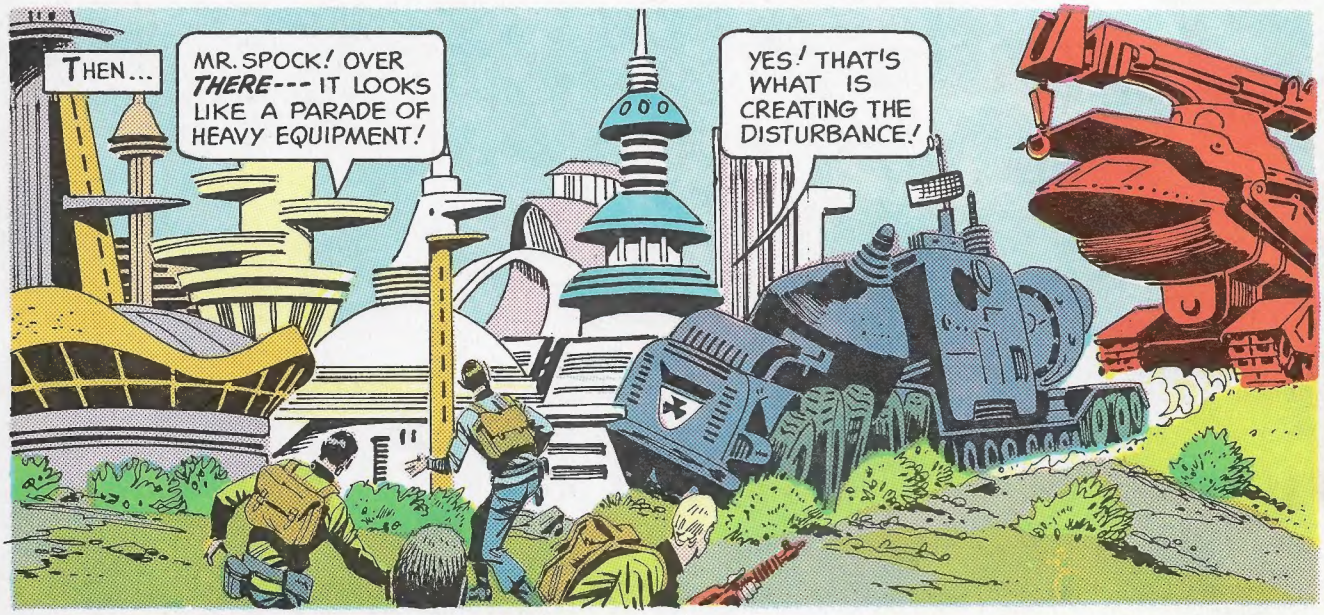

MOMENTS LATER, BEAMS IN THE TELEPORTATION CHAMBER ILLUMINATE THE EXPLORATION TEAM...


AND A MICRO-SECOND AFTERWARD, THE FIGURES MATERIALIZE ON ALPHA Z-21...
(WHEW-W!) WHY, THE SUPER-CITY ENDS ABRUPTLY... AS IF IT HAD BEEN CUT OFF WITH A KNIFE BEFORE IT WAS COMPLETE!
OUR FIRST OPERATION SHOULD BE TO SEARCH FOR SIGNS OF LIFE WITHIN THOSE BIZARRE BUILDINGS!

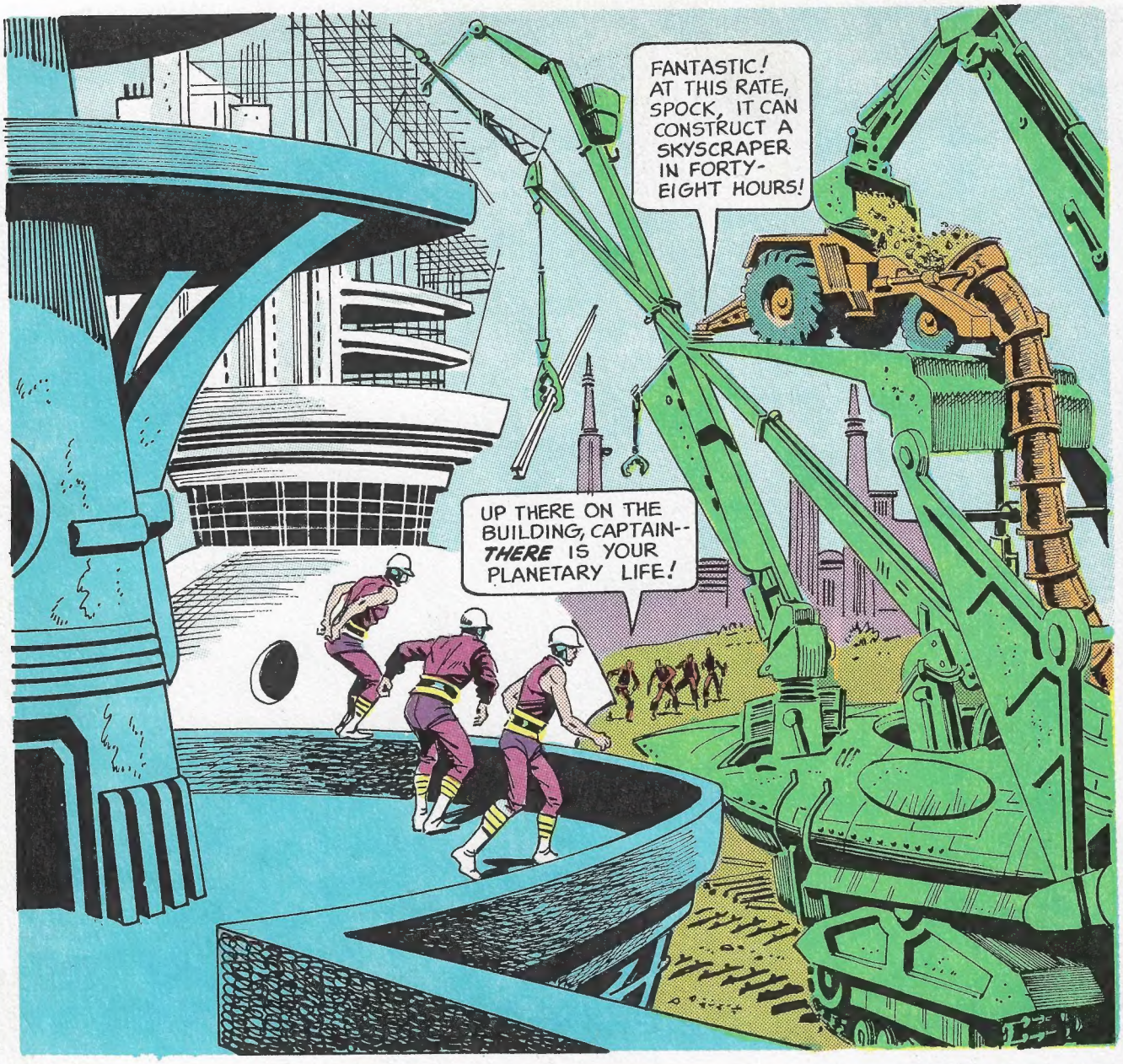
BUT AS CAPTAIN KIRK GIVES INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS MEN, HE CAN NOT KNOW THAT THE LIFE HE SEEKS HAS ALREADY FOUND HIM...
ALIEN VISITORS! WHAT SHALL WE DO NOW, OH, GREAT LEADER, KRILL?
FRIENDS OR ENEMIES, THEY MUST AWAIT OUR ATTENTION! PLANS CAN NOT BE CHANGED NOW!

AND SUDDENLY, AS THE WORDS HAVE BARELY LEFT KRILL'S MOUTH...
IT COMES!
RUMBLE!

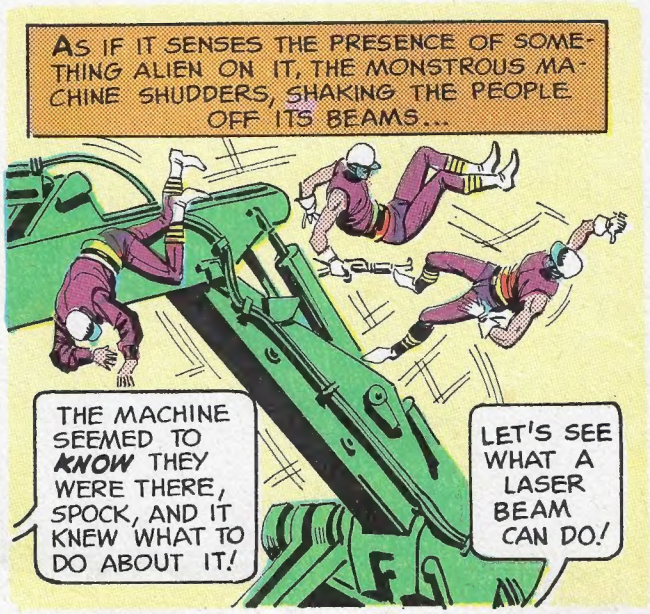
WHILE AT THE ENTERPRISE LANDING CREW SITE...
T-THE GROUND SHAKING! EARTHQUAKE!
NO! IT IS SOME SORT OF SURFACE DISTURBANCE!


THEN...
MR. SPOCK! OVER THERE--- IT LOOKS LIKE A PARADE OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT!
YES! THAT'S WHAT IS CREATING THE DISTURBANCE!

A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE MEN OF THE ENTERPRISE GAPE IN AWE AS...
WHY, THEY'RE CREATING BUILDINGS, ROADS--EXTENDING THE CITY!
BUT THOSE MACHINES--THERE'S NOBODY OPERATING THEM! IT'S POSITIVELY EERIE!

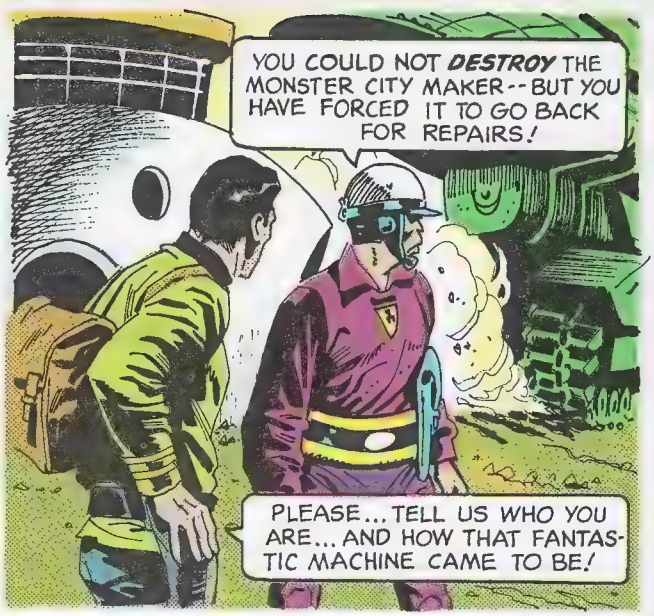

FANTASTIC! AT THIS RATE, SPOCK, IT CAN CONSTRUCT A SKYSCRAPER IN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS!
UP THERE ON THE BUILDING, CAPTAIN-- THERE IS YOUR PLANETARY LIFE!

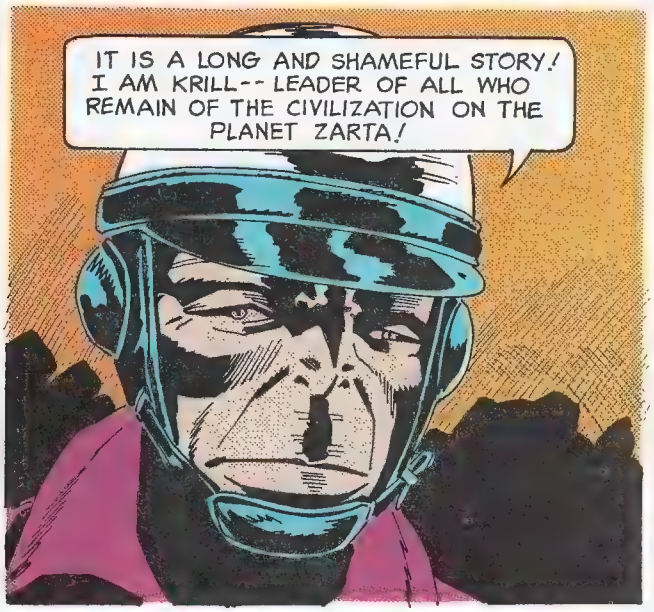
THE PEOPLE HAVE LEAPED ONTO THE BUILDING-MAKER! THEY SEEM TO BE TRYING TO STOP THE THING! LET'S GO! BRING THE LASER RIFLE!


AS IF IT SENSES THE PRESENCE OF SOMETHING ALIEN ON IT, THE MONSTROUS MACHINE SHUDDERS, SHAKING THE PEOPLE OFF ITS BEAMS...
THE MACHINE SEEMED TO KNOW THEY WERE THERE, SPOCK, AND IT KNEW WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT!
LET'S SEE WHAT A LASER BEAM CAN DO!

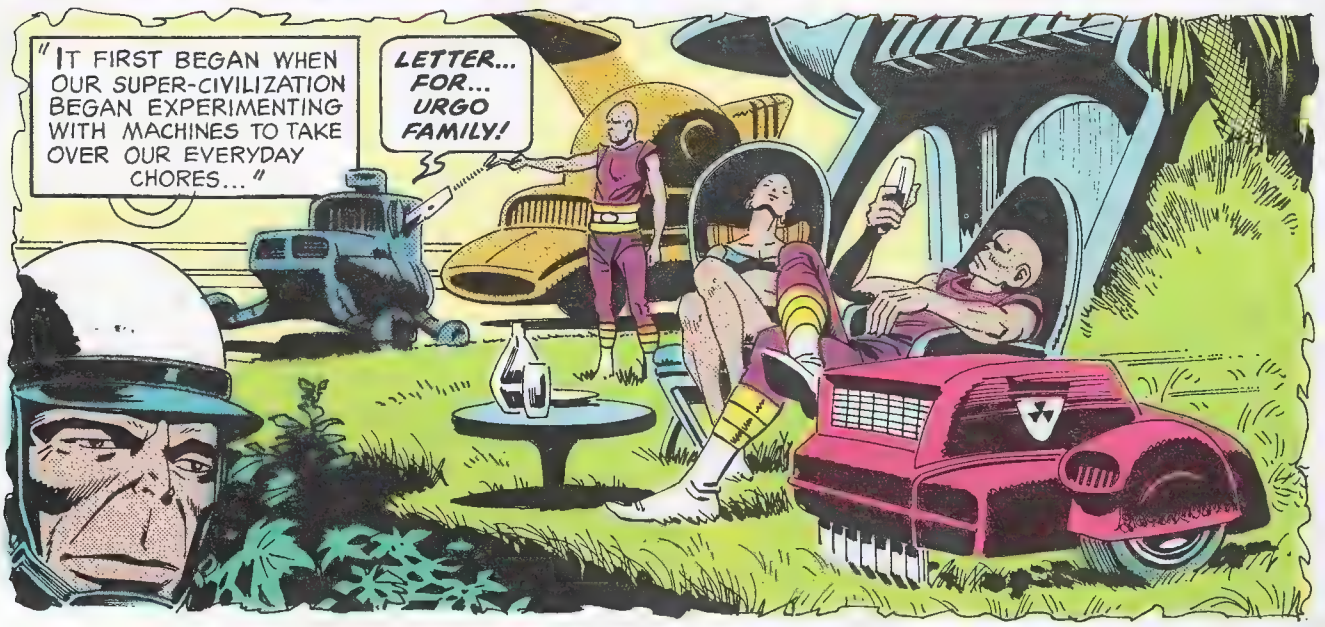
A BEAM OF SUPER-INTENSIFIED LIGHT STREAKS INTO THE MACHINE'S INNARDS AND...
I THINK YOU HAVE SHORT-CIRCUITED IT, CAPTAIN!
YOU HAVE! THE MACHINE HAS STOPPED BUILDING! IT'S WITH-DRAWING! AND ALL THE OTHER MACHINERY WITH IT! AMAZING!
BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PEOPLE?
THERE!
TENSELY, CAUTIOUSLY, THE ALIENS COME INTO THE OPEN... AND AS KIRK SPEAKS IN THE INTERPLANETARY LANGUAGE ESPERANTA...
THEY'RE AFRAID OF US...
WE ARE FRIENDS! WE ONLY COME TO AID YOU!

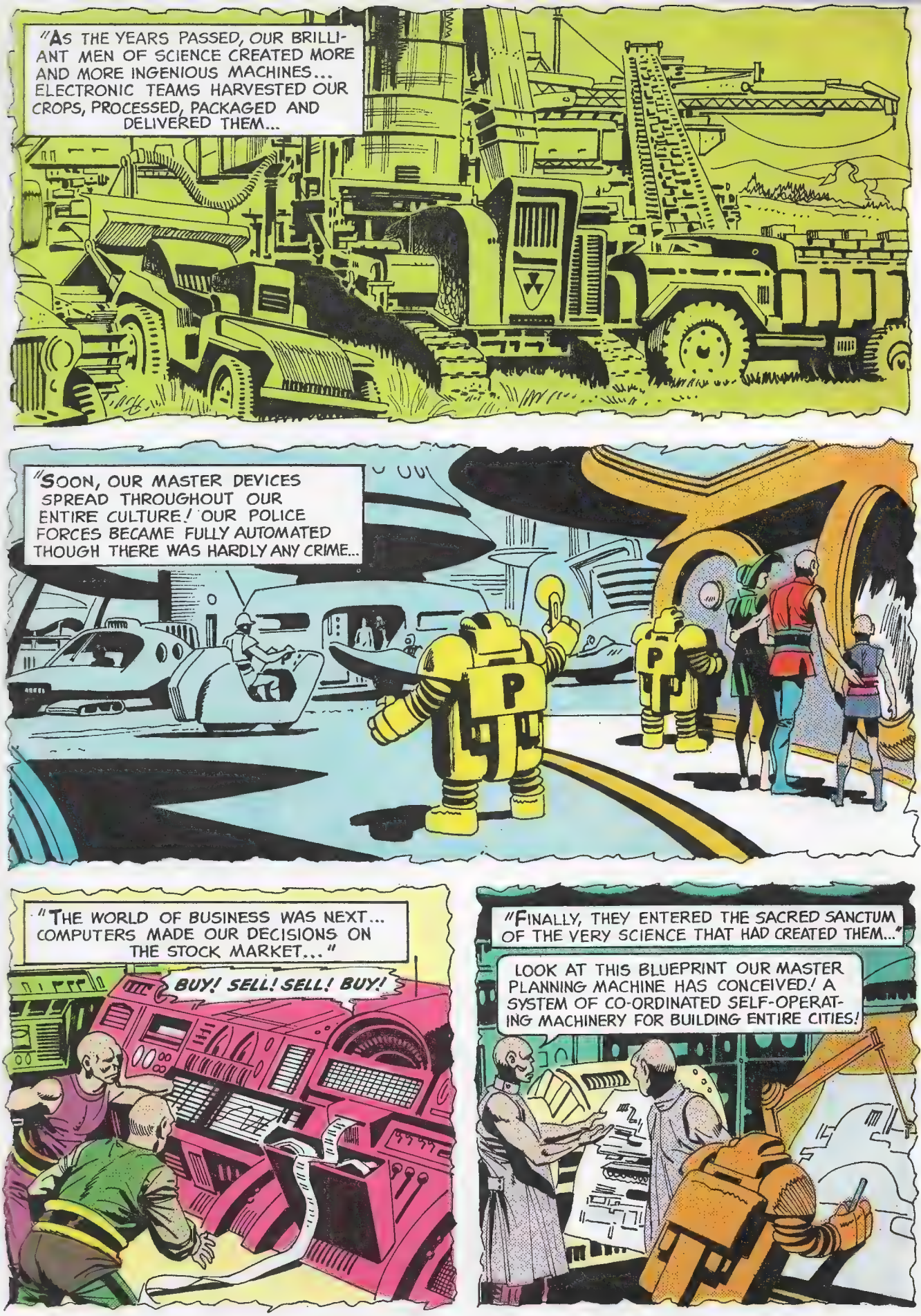
THANK YOU, VISITORS FROM ANOTHER WORLD! WE OWE YOU A GREAT DEBT!
YOU OWE US NOTHING, SIR -- EXCEPT PERHAPS AN EXPLANATION TO YOUR MONSTROUS PROBLEM HERE!

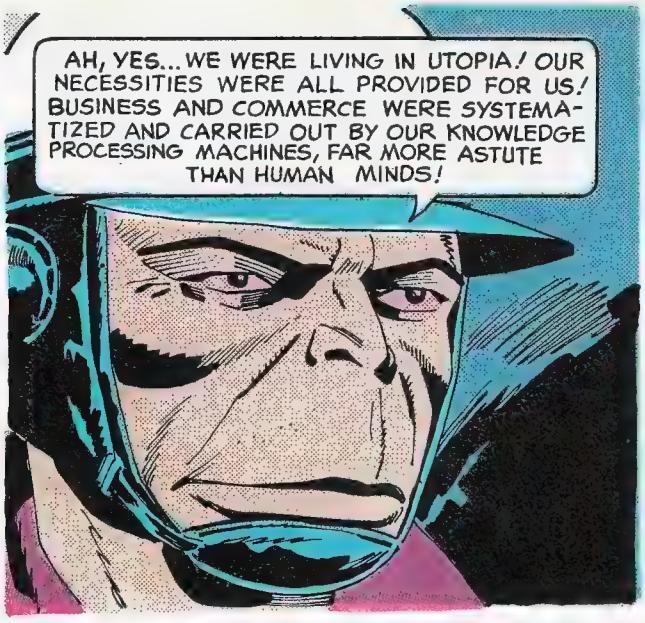

YOU COULD NOT DESTROY THE MONSTER CITY MAKER -- BUT YOU HAVE FORCED IT TO GO BACK FOR REPAIRS!
PLEASE... TELL US WHO YOU ARE... AND HOW THAT FANTASTIC MACHINE CAME TO BE!

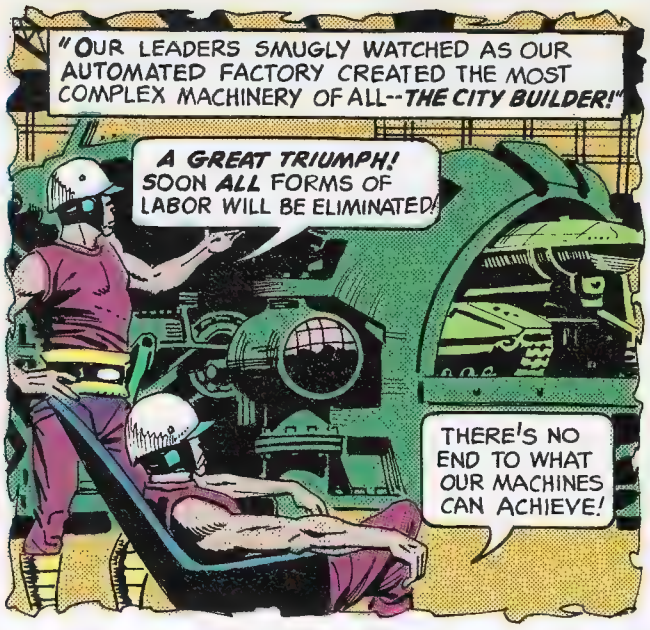

IT IS A LONG AND SHAMEFUL STORY! I AM KRILL -- LEADER OF ALL WHO REMAIN OF THE CIVILIZATION ON THE PLANET ZARTA!

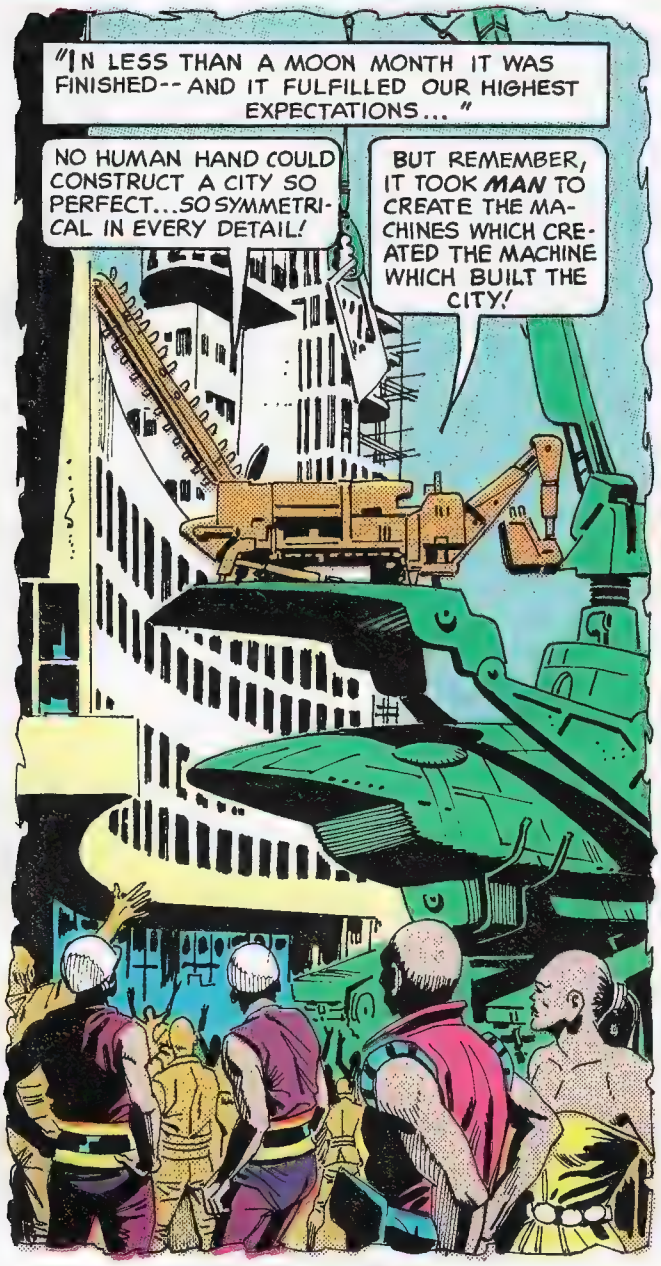
150 YEARS AGO WE WERE A PROUD AND PROSPEROUS RACE OF MANY MILLIONS! TODAY, A DOZEN OF THOSE MECHANICAL DEMONS RULE THE PLANET AND THREATEN MY VILLAGE IN THE MOUNTAINS YONDER!

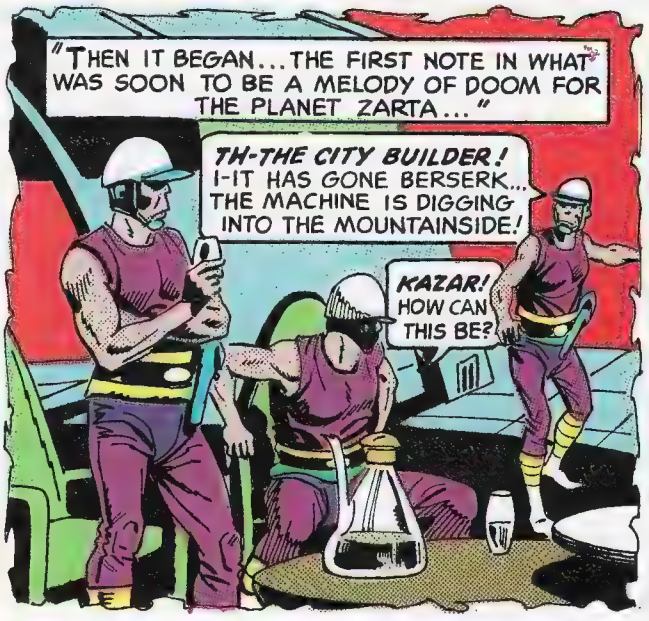

"IT FIRST BEGAN WHEN OUR SUPER-CIVILIZATION BEGAN EXPERIMENTING WITH MACHINES TO TAKE OVER OUR EVERYDAY CHORES..."
LETTER... FOR... URGO FAMILY!

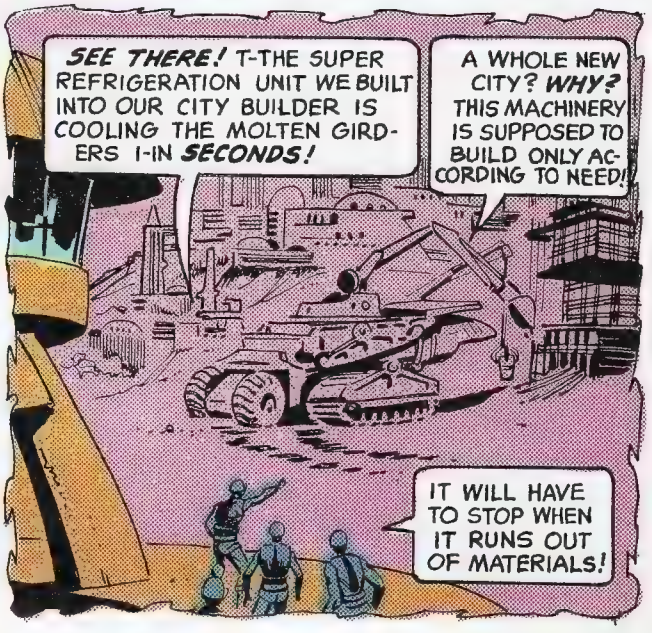

"AS THE YEARS PASSED, OUR BRILLIANT MEN OF SCIENCE CREATED MORE AND MORE INGENIOUS MACHINES... ELECTRONIC TEAMS HARVESTED OUR CROPS, PROCESSED, PACKAGED AND DELIVERED THEM...
"SOON, OUR MASTER DEVICES SPREAD THROUGHOUT OUR ENTIRE CULTURE! OUR POLICE FORCES BECAME FULLY AUTOMATED THOUGH THERE WAS HARDLY ANY CRIME...
P
P
"THE WORLD OF BUSINESS WAS NEXT... COMPUTERS MADE OUR DECISIONS ON THE STOCK MARKET..."
BUY! SELL! SELL! BUY!
"FINALLY, THEY ENTERED THE SACRED SANCTUM OF THE VERY SCIENCE THAT HAD CREATED THEM..."
LOOK AT THIS BLUEPRINT OUR MASTER PLANNING MACHINE HAS CONCEIVED! A SYSTEM OF CO-ORDINATED SELF-OPERATING MACHINERY FOR BUILDING ENTIRE CITIES!

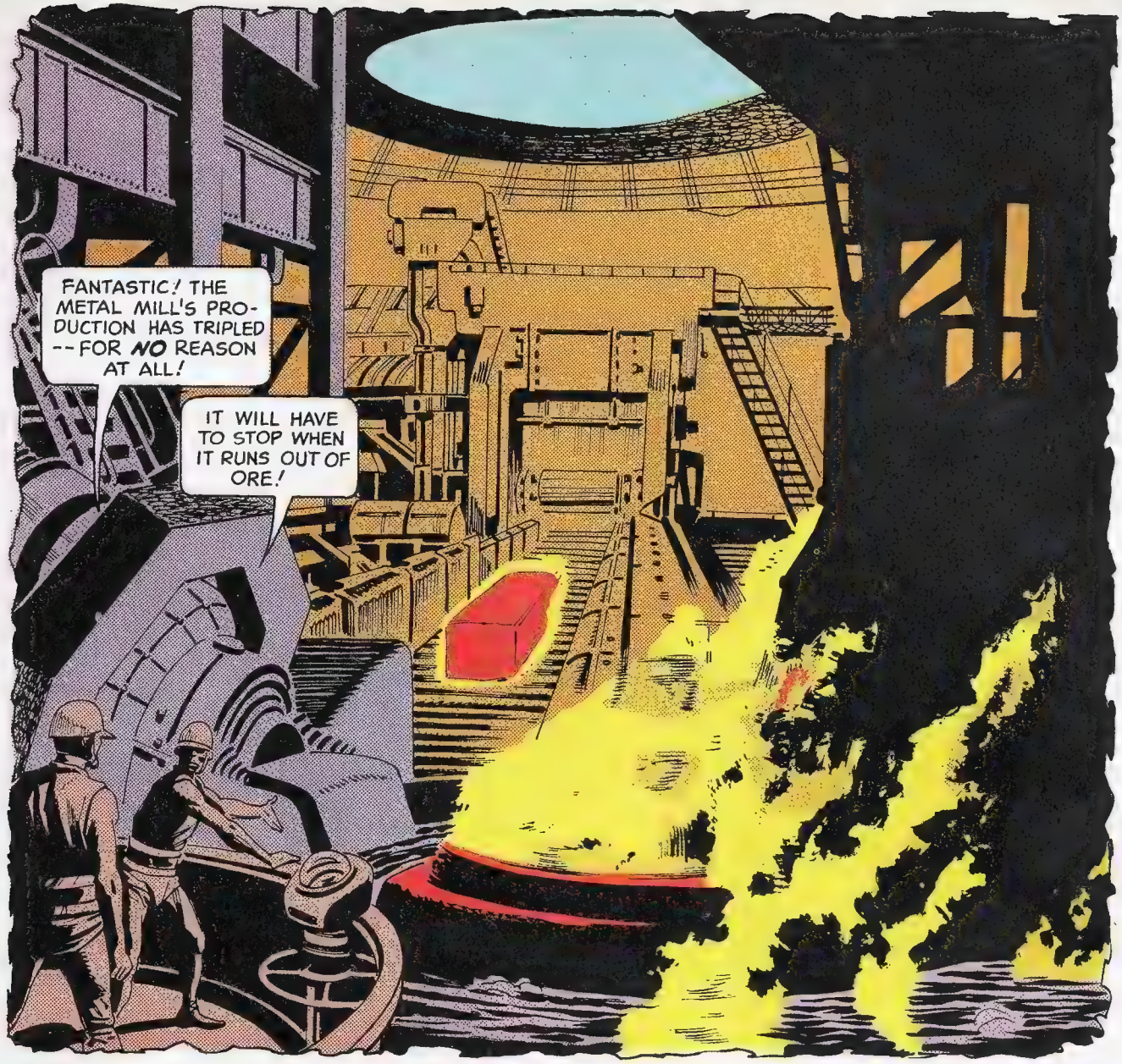

AH, YES... WE WERE LIVING IN UTOPIA! OUR NECESSITIES WERE ALL PROVIDED FOR US! BUSINESS AND COMMERCE WERE SYSTEMATIZED AND CARRIED OUT BY OUR KNOWLEDGE PROCESSING MACHINES, FAR MORE ASTUTE THAN HUMAN MINDS!

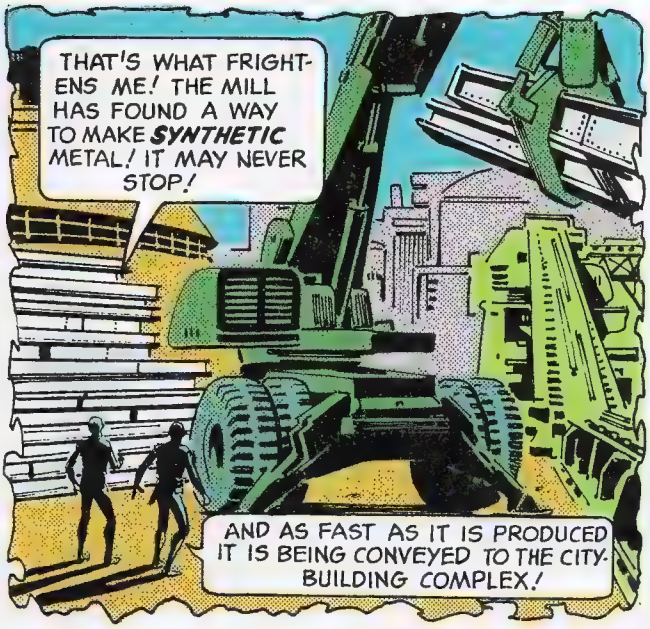

"OUR LEADERS SMUGLY WATCHED AS OUR AUTOMATED FACTORY CREATED THE MOST COMPLEX MACHINERY OF ALL--THE CITY BUILDER!"
A GREAT TRIUMPH! SOON ALL FORMS OF LABOR WILL BE ELIMINATED!
THERE'S NO END TO WHAT OUR MACHINES CAN ACHIEVE!


"IN LESS THAN A MOON MONTH IT WAS FINISHED--AND IT FULFILLED OUR HIGHEST EXPECTATIONS..."
NO HUMAN HAND COULD CONSTRUCT A CITY SO PERFECT...SO SYMMETRICAL IN EVERY DETAIL!
BUT REMEMBER, IT TOOK MAN TO CREATE THE MACHINES WHICH CREATED THE MACHINE WHICH BUILT THE CITY!

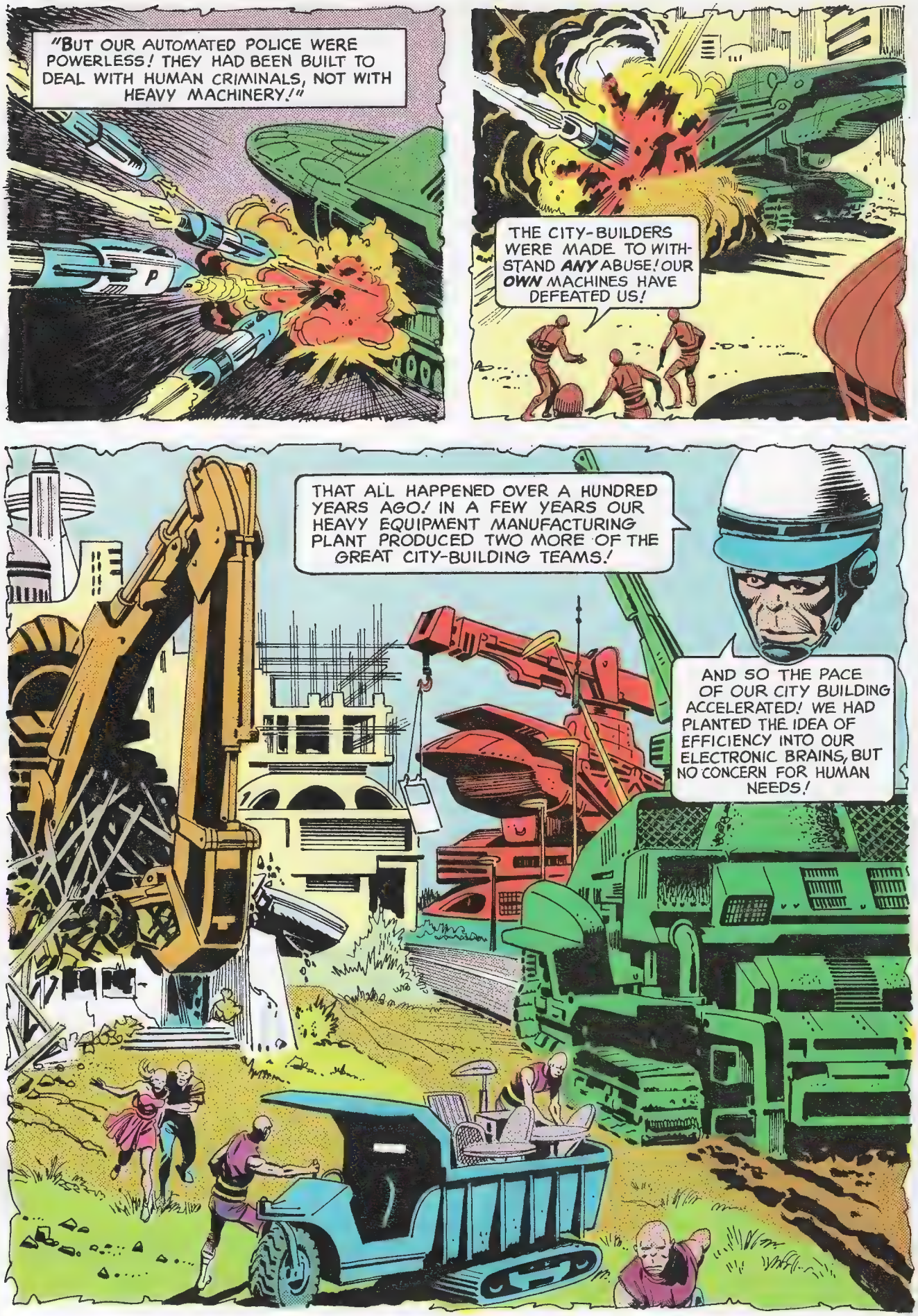

"THEN IT BEGAN...THE FIRST NOTE IN WHAT WAS SOON TO BE A MELODY OF DOOM FOR THE PLANET ZARTA..."
TH-THE CITY BUILDER! I-IT HAS GONE BERSERK... THE MACHINE IS DIGGING INTO THE MOUNTAINSIDE!
KAZAR! HOW CAN THIS BE?

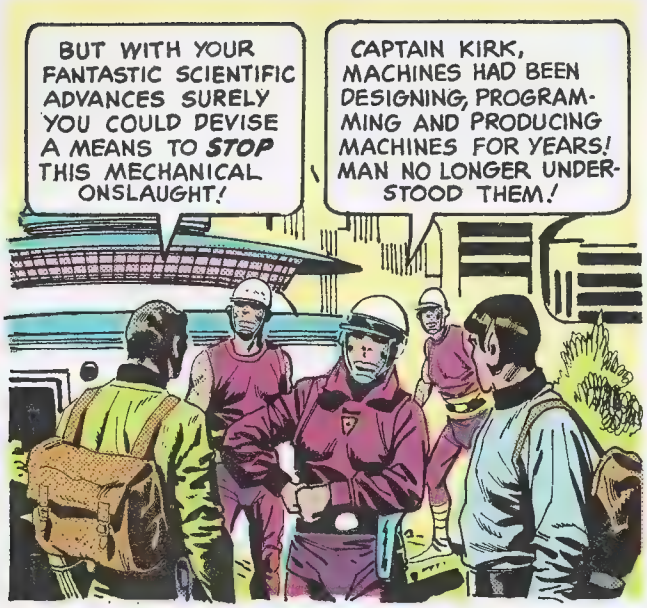

SEE THERE! T-THE SUPER REFRIGERATION UNIT WE BUILT INTO OUR CITY BUILDER IS COOLING THE MOLTEN GIRDERS I-IN SECONDS!
A WHOLE NEW CITY? WHY? THIS MACHINERY IS SUPPOSED TO BUILD ONLY ACCORDING TO NEED!
IT WILL HAVE TO STOP WHEN IT RUNS OUT OF MATERIALS!

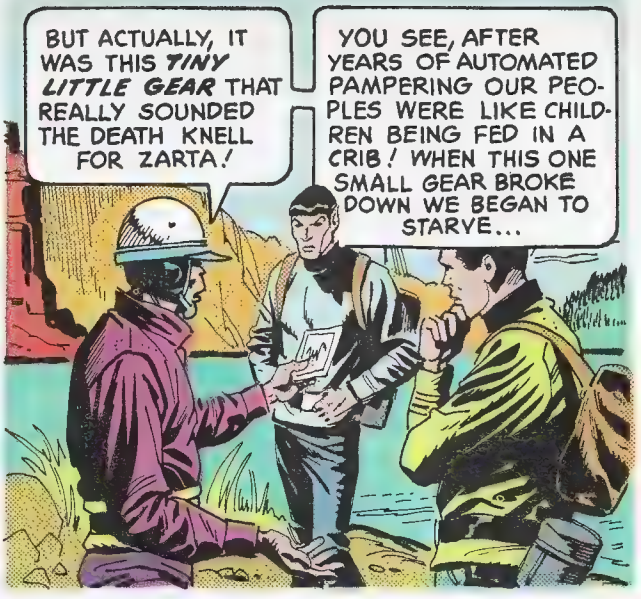

FANTASTIC! THE METAL MILL'S PRODUCTION HAS TRIPLED -- FOR NO REASON AT ALL!
IT WILL HAVE TO STOP WHEN IT RUNS OUT OF ORE!

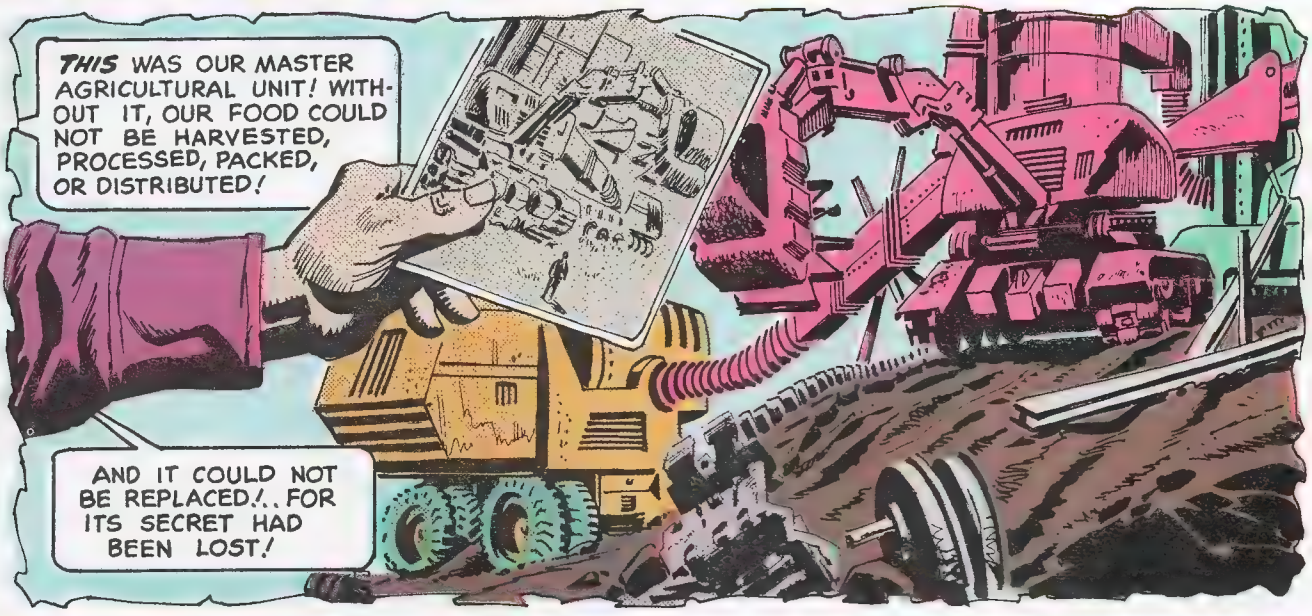

THAT'S WHAT FRIGHTENS ME! THE MILL HAS FOUND A WAY TO MAKE SYNTHETIC METAL! IT MAY NEVER STOP!
AND AS FAST AS IT IS PRODUCED IT IS BEING CONVEYED TO THE CITY-BUILDING COMPLEX!

TWO MORE NEW CITIES! WE WON'T NEED THEM FOR A HUNDRED YEARS!
THERE ARE NO CONTROLS TO STOP IT! THIS MACHINERY MUST BE DESTROYED!


"BUT OUR AUTOMATED POLICE WERE POWERLESS! THEY HAD BEEN BUILT TO DEAL WITH HUMAN CRIMINALS, NOT WITH HEAVY MACHINERY!"
THE CITY-BUILDERS WERE MADE TO WITHSTAND ANY ABUSE! OUR OWN MACHINES HAVE DEFEATED US!
THAT ALL HAPPENED OVER A HUNDRED YEARS AGO! IN A FEW YEARS OUR HEAVY EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURING PLANT PRODUCED TWO MORE OF THE GREAT CITY-BUILDING TEAMS!
AND SO THE PACE OF OUR CITY BUILDING ACCELERATED! WE HAD PLANTED THE IDEA OF EFFICIENCY INTO OUR ELECTRONIC BRAINS, BUT NO CONCERN FOR HUMAN NEEDS!


BUT WITH YOUR FANTASTIC SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES SURELY YOU COULD DEVISE A MEANS TO *STOP* THIS MECHANICAL ONSLAUGHT!
CAPTAIN KIRK, MACHINES HAD BEEN DESIGNING, PROGRAMMING AND PRODUCING MACHINES FOR YEARS! MAN NO LONGER UNDERSTOOD THEM!


BUT ACTUALLY, IT WAS THIS *TINY LITTLE GEAR* THAT REALLY SOUNDED THE DEATH KNELL FOR ZARTA!
YOU SEE, AFTER YEARS OF AUTOMATED PAMPERING OUR PEOPLES WERE LIKE CHILDREN BEING FED IN A CRIB! WHEN THIS ONE SMALL GEAR BROKE DOWN WE BEGAN TO STARVE...

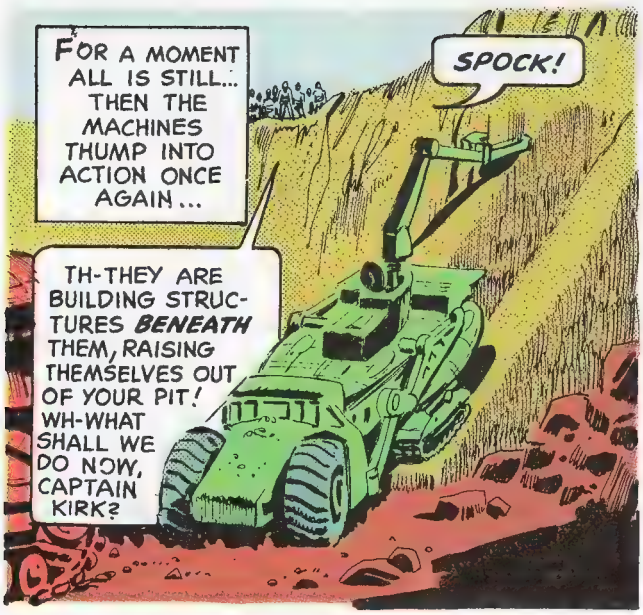

THIS WAS OUR MASTER AGRICULTURAL UNIT! WITHOUT IT, OUR FOOD COULD NOT BE HARVESTED, PROCESSED, PACKED, OR DISTRIBUTED!
AND IT COULD NOT BE REPLACED!.. FOR ITS SECRET HAD BEEN LOST!

WHY DIDN'T THE PEOPLE GO *BACK* TO THE FIELDS! THEY COULD FEED THEMSELVES AS THEY DID BEFORE -- IN THE *OLD-FASHIONED* MANNER!
WE NOT ONLY DID NO PHYSICAL LABOR, WE COULD NO LONGER EVEN THINK, PLAN, LOOK AHEAD, MAKE DECIONS! MAN WAS *OBSOLETE!*

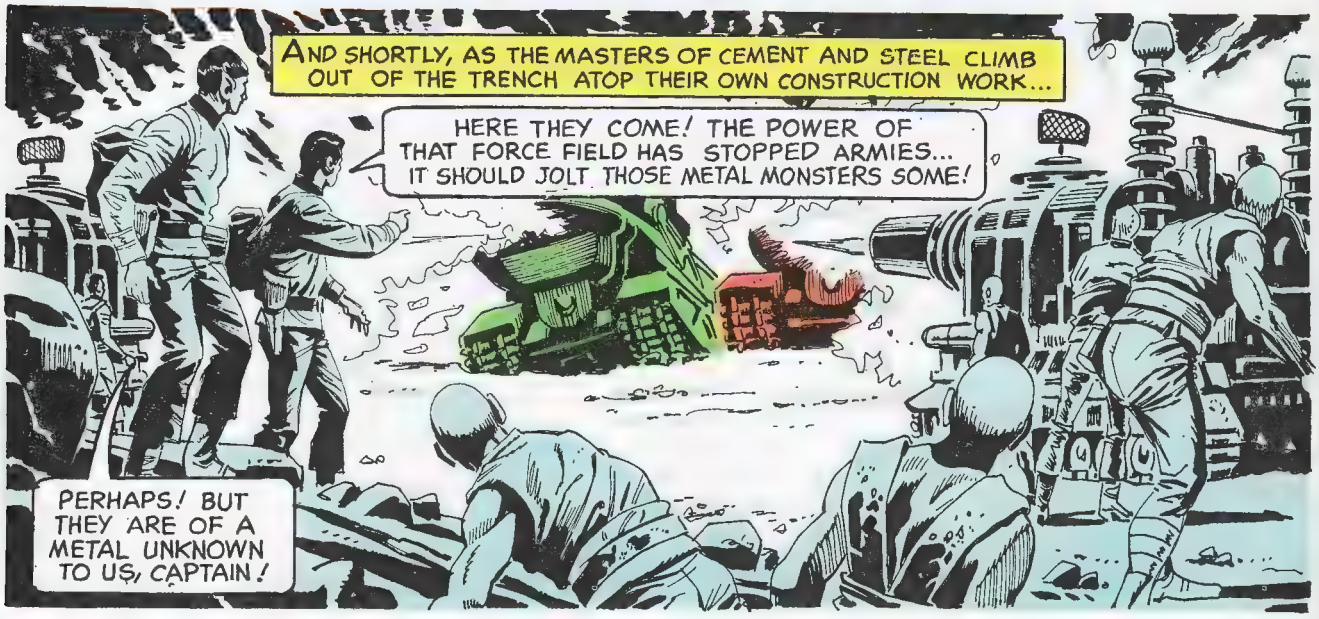
OF COURSE! IT WOULD TAKE TIME... ANOTHER GENERATION, PERHAPS, TO RELEARN THINGS! KRILL... THE CREW OF THE ENTERPRISE WILL TRY TO HELP YOU!
IT'S NO USE, CAPTAIN KIRK! SOON *EVERY SQUARE INCH* OF ZARTA WILL BE COVERED WITH GLEAMING CITIES — AND THERE WON'T BE A SOUL LEFT TO LIVE IN THEM!

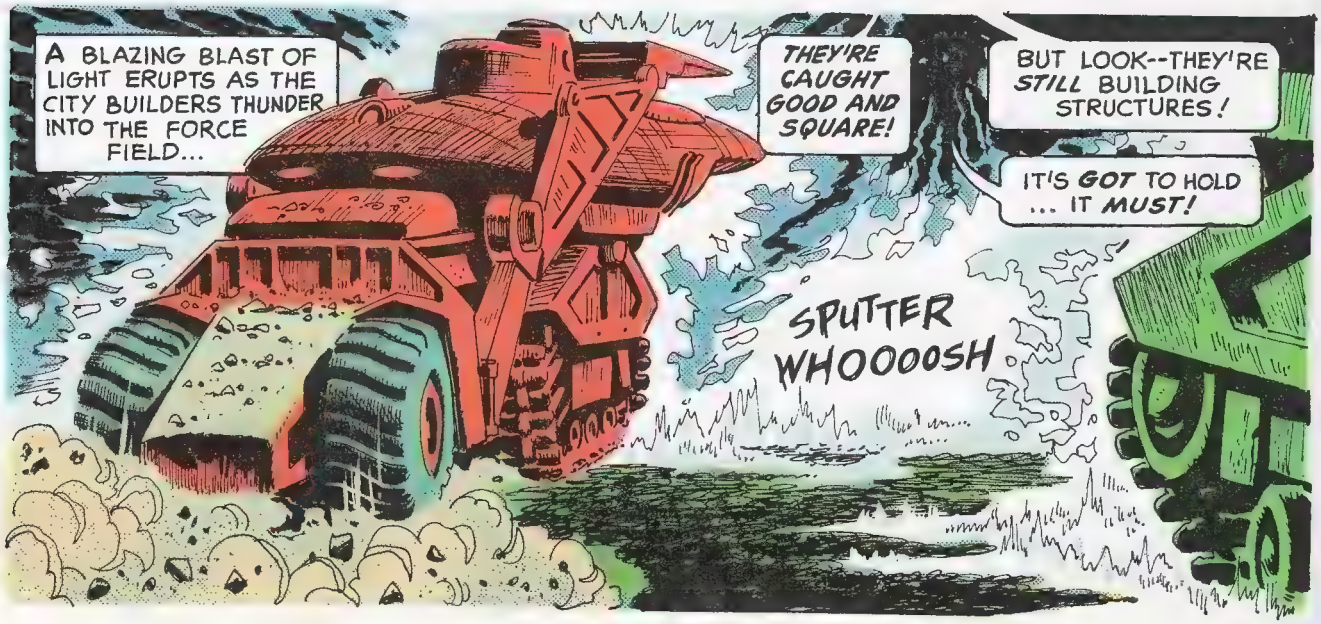
ON ZARTA, THE MYSTERY WORLD REFERRED TO AS PLANET QUESTIONMARK, THE CREW OF THE ENTERPRISE JOIN FORCES WITH THE LAST OF AN ALIEN CIVILIZATION TO STOP THE TERRIBLE "PROGRESS" OF... THE CITY BUILDERS!
THEY COME -- THREE OF THEM! THERE ARE ONLY TEN THOUSAND ACRES OF OPEN LAND LEFT ... IF THEY BUILD ON THAT, OUR PLANET IS FINISHED!
SIT TIGHT, KRILL! WE'LL WORK SOMETHING OUT!
THEN, KRILL'S MEN SWARM OUT OF HIDING...
KRILL! WHAT SHALL WE DO? THE IRON ONES COME AGAIN!
DO NOT FEAR, ZIKA--OUR ALIEN FRIENDS ARE HERE TO HELP US! OUR VISITORS COME FROM A GREAT SPACE-SHIP CALLED ENTERPRISE! THEY... UNDERSTAND OUR PROBLEM!

WE'LL HAVE A SOCIAL LATER, GENTLEMEN! RIGHT NOW, THOSE MACHINES HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH...
WHAT DO YOU THINK, MR. SPOCK? CAN WE DO ANYTHING TO STOP THEM FROM CONTINUING THE CITY COMPLEX ONWARD?
THEIR VIBRATIONS REGISTER THAT THEY WEIGH OVER A THOUSAND TONS, CAPTAIN...
IF WE MADE A TRENCH WITH OUR EARTH DISINTEGRATORS IN THEIR PATH WE MIGHT MOUSE-TRAP THEM! WITH SUCH WEIGHT THEY MAY BECOME BOGGED DOWN...
QUICKLY, THE "SOIL DESTROYERS" ARE BROUGHT INTO PLAY...
HURRY! THOSE GARGANTUAN GADGETS ARE HEADING FOR THE EDGE OF THE CITY COMPLEX LIKE MOTHS TO A CANDLE!
WE'RE DOWN A HUNDRED FEET-- THAT SHOULD DO IT!
ZZZZZZ
IT HAS SUCCEEDED JUST AS THE CITY-BUILDERS BEGAN TO BUILD THEY HAVE TUMBLED INTO THE ALIEN-MADE PIT! YOUR FRIENDS ARE WISE, OH KRILL!
HOLD UP! THE SHOW ISN'T OVER YET!
CLOSER...CLOSER THE IRON STRUCTURE-MAKING CREATURE COME... UNTIL...

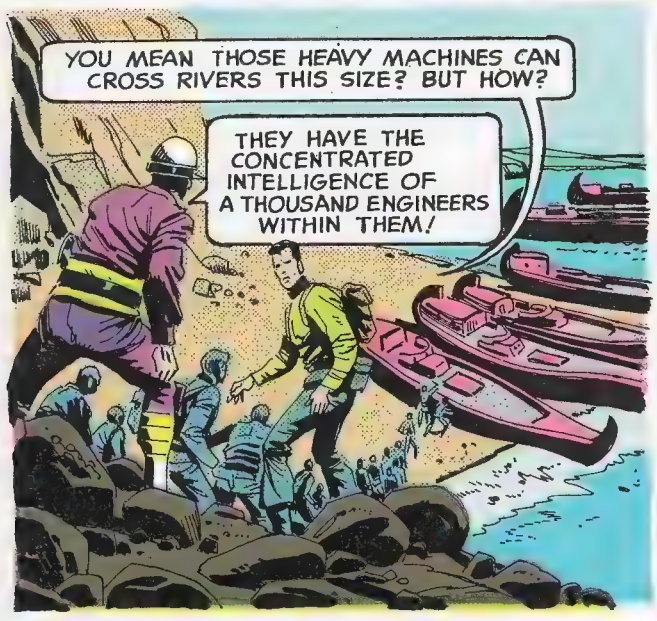

FOR A MOMENT ALL IS STILL... THEN THE MACHINES THUMP INTO ACTION ONCE AGAIN...
SPOCK!
TH-THEY ARE BUILDING STRUCTURES *BENEATH* THEM, RAISING THEMSELVES OUT OF YOUR PIT! WH-WHAT SHALL WE DO NOW, CAPTAIN KIRK?

MY PEOPLE—THEY ARE TURNING TO THE ALIENS FOR GUIDANCE NOW! THEY IGNORE ME!
A FORCE FIELD, MR. SPOCK! IT MAY WORK!


AND SHORTLY, AS THE MASTERS OF CEMENT AND STEEL CLIMB OUT OF THE TRENCH ATOP THEIR OWN CONSTRUCTION WORK...
HERE THEY COME! THE POWER OF THAT FORCE FIELD HAS STOPPED ARMIES... IT SHOULD JOLT THOSE METAL MONSTERS SOME!
PERHAPS! BUT THEY ARE OF A METAL UNKNOWN TO US, CAPTAIN!


A BLAZING BLAST OF LIGHT ERUPTS AS THE CITY BUILDERS THUNDER INTO THE FORCE FIELD...
THEY'RE CAUGHT GOOD AND SQUARE!
BUT LOOK--THEY'RE *STILL* BUILDING STRUCTURES!
IT'S *GOT* TO HOLD ... IT *MUST*!
SPUTTER
WHOOOOSH

THEN...
FANTASTIC! THE FORCE FIELD ISN'T POWERFUL ENOUGH! THEY'LL BE COMING TO A BIG RIVER SOON! SURELY THAT WILL STOP THEM!
NO! NO!


YOU MEAN THOSE HEAVY MACHINES CAN CROSS RIVERS THIS SIZE? BUT HOW?
THEY HAVE THE CONCENTRATED INTELLIGENCE OF A THOUSAND ENGINEERS WITHIN THEM!

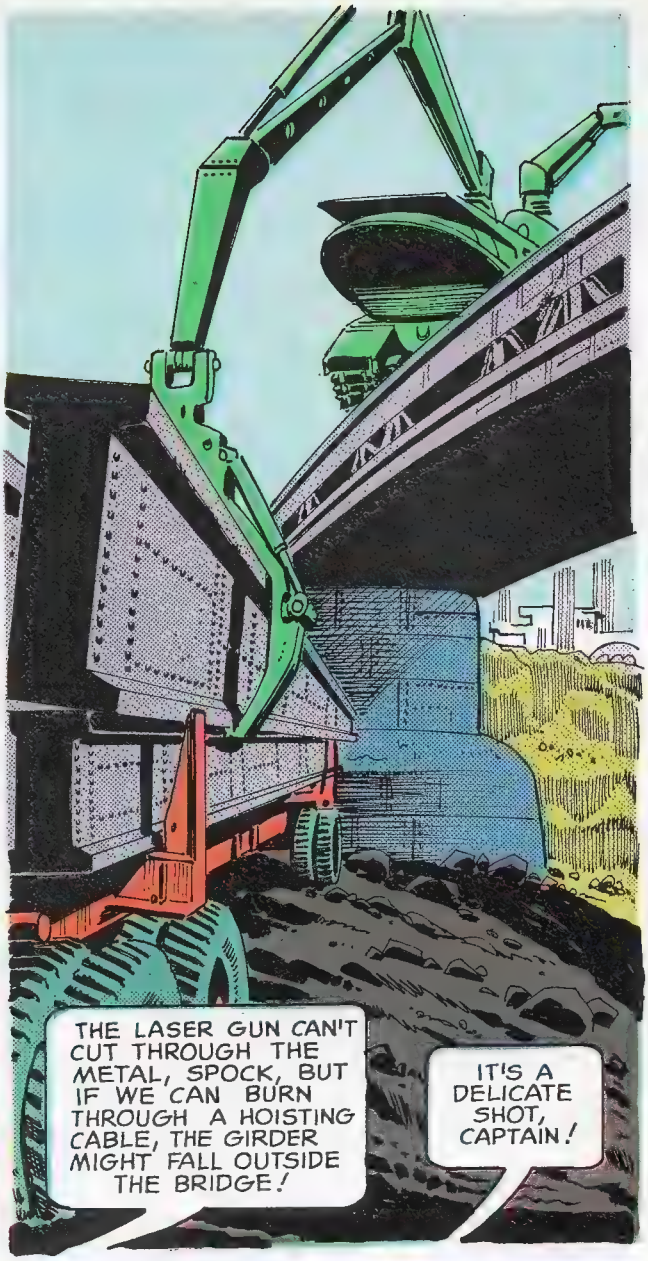
EVERY OBSTACLE THEY FACE BECOMES A SIMPLE EXERCISE IN PROBLEM SOLVING! YOU SAW HOW THEY OVERCAME YOUR DITCH! WATCH WHEN THEY REACH THE WATER'S EDGE!

THEY HAVE IDENTIFIED THE PROBLEM! NOW THEY ARE ANALYZING IT AND DECIDING WHAT ACTION TO TAKE!

SWIFTLY, THE MACHINES SWING INTO ACTION. WITHIN HALF AN HOUR THEIR SOLUTION BECOMES OBVIOUS...
OF COURSE! THEY'RE BUILDING A BRIDGE!
SO LOGICAL, SO SIMPLE! BUT STILL, CAPTAIN, MOST REMARKABLE!

INCREDIBLE! NOW THE MACHINE WILL SINK ANOTHER TOWER IN MID-RIVER, AND THEN--
WE MUST ATTACK IT AGAIN, BEFORE IT GETS ACROSS!
WE HAVE ATTACKED, KRILL, AND FAILED! WE MUST BE AS LOGICAL, AS ANALYTICAL AS THEY ARE!
MEANING YOU INTEND TO DO NOTHING!
THERE IS ONE POSSIBILITY, CAPTAIN --WE MUST FIND A WEAKNESS IN THEIR MIRACLE METAL!
SPOCK TO ENTERPRISE: TELEPORT AT ONCE METALLIC TEST KIT! OUR COORDINATES ARE...
WITHIN MINUTES, THE REQUESTED EQUIPMENT MATERIALIZES...
CAN YOU REALLY FIND A FLAW IN THE METAL, MR. SPOCK?
THOUGH I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH ALL SUBSTANCES IN THE UNIVERSE, LOGIC TELLS ME EVERY SUBSTANCE CAN BEEN BROKEN DOWN BY SOME PROCESS!
WHICH MAY TAKE YEARS TO DISCOVER!

THE FIRST THING WE MUST DO, CAPTAIN, IS OBTAIN A SAMPLE OF THE METAL!
THAT ISN'T GOING TO BE EASY!


THE LASER GUN CAN'T CUT THROUGH THE METAL, SPOCK, BUT IF WE CAN BURN THROUGH A HOISTING CABLE, THE GIRDER MIGHT FALL OUTSIDE THE BRIDGE!
IT'S A DELICATE SHOT, CAPTAIN!

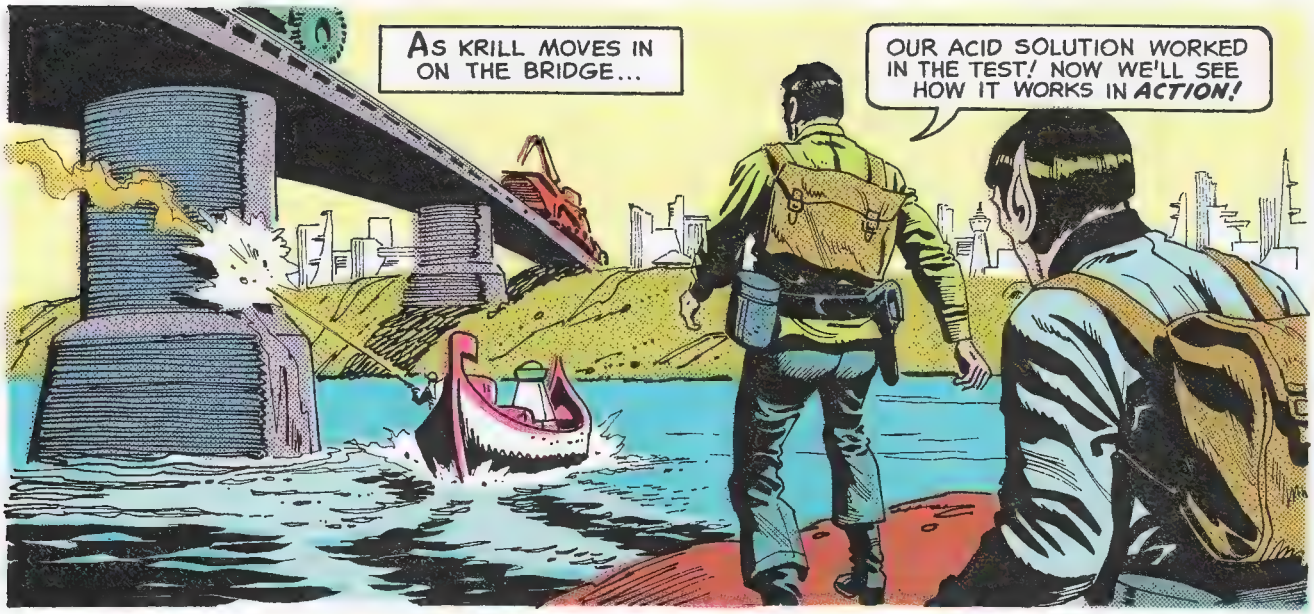
IF THE BOAT JUST HOLDS STEADY NOW...
CAPTAIN! THAT BOAT! LOOK OUT!

KRILL! YOU FOOL! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?
ZARTA IS MY PLANET! THESE ARE MY PEOPLE!

YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE OVER, DON'T YOU?--WIN THEIR RESPECT WITH YOUR FALSE PROMISES! ALREADY THEY FORGET ME!

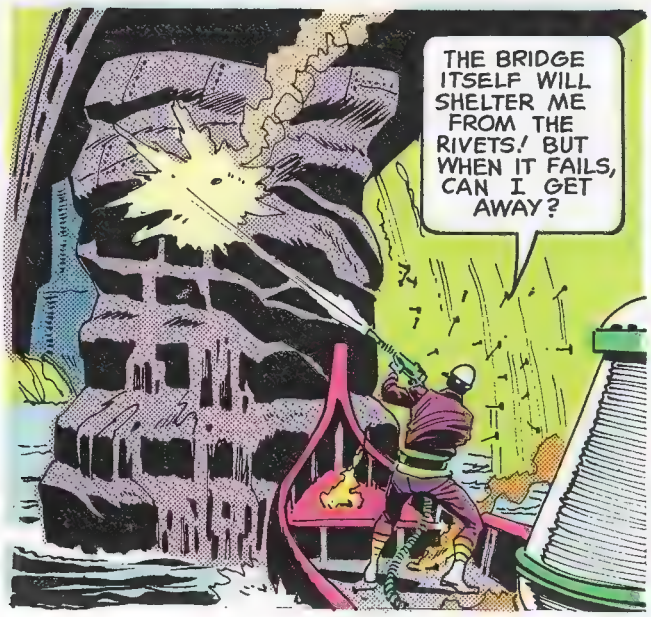
A MOST ILLOGICAL REACTION, KRILL! YOU NEED OUR HELP WHETHER YOU WANT IT OR NOT!
SEE IF YOU CAN BRING DOWN A BEAM, CAPTAIN!
GOOD SHOOTING, CAPTAIN! THE BEAM WILL FALL IN THE WATER! I'LL FISH IT OUT WITH THE MAGNO-HOOK!
SHORTLY, MR. SPOCK WORKS DESPERATELY WITH HIS CHEMICAL KIT...
TEST Z-12 SHOWS NO REACTION!
NOTHING SEEMS TO WORK!
I TOLD YOU! YOU'RE WASTING OUR PRECIOUS TIME!
HOLD IT! THE METAL HAS A MOLECULAR FLAW!
IT BREAKS DOWN ALMOST INSTANTLY TO A SIMPLE SOLUTION OF NH_2!
FANTASTIC! A METAL THAT COULD PROBABLY WITHSTAND AN ATOMIC BLAST...YET A MILD AMINO ACID DISINTEGRATES IT!
CHEMICALS AND VATS ARE TELEPORTED DOWN FROM THE ENTERPRISE, AND HOURS LATER...
WE HAVE ENOUGH NOW TO TAKE CARE OF THAT BRIDGE AND THOSE INFERNAL MACHINES, SPOCK! LET'S GET STARTED!
I DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD, JIM!

KRILL IS RIGHT! THESE ARE *HIS* PEOPLE! THIS IS *HIS* JOB!
OF COURSE!
WE HAVE A WEAPON NOW KRILL! BUT WE NEED *YOU* TO OPERATE IT! YOU KNOW THESE CUNNING MACHINES BETTER THAN WE DO! WILL YOU COME WITH US?
NO!
NO? YOU MEAN YOU'LL STAND BY AND *LET* YOUR PEOPLE BE DESTROYED?
I MEAN I'LL DO IT-- *ALONE!*
ALONE? THAT'S SUICIDE?
ALONE I HELD THESE PEOPLE TOGETHER! *WITHOUT* ME THEY WOULD HAVE PERISHED YEARS AGO! I ALONE CAN SAVE THEM NOW!
WHY THAT EGOMANIAC! HE'S MORE CONCERNED WITH KEEPING HIS POWER THAN SAVING HIS PEOPLE!
HE'S VERY MUCH LIKE YOU *EARTH* PEOPLE IN THAT RESPECT, CAPTAIN!


AS KRILL MOVES IN ON THE BRIDGE...
OUR ACID SOLUTION WORKED IN THE TEST! NOW WE'LL SEE HOW IT WORKS IN ACTION!

IT'S SUCCEEDING! THE METAL IS BEGINNING TO MELT! MUST KEEP SPRAYING!

BUT ABOVE, THE GIANT MACHINE SENSES THAT SOMETHING IS WRONG--AND REACTS...
RED-HOT RIVETS! THE BUILDER KNOWS I'M HERE!


THE BRIDGE ITSELF WILL SHELTER ME FROM THE RIVETS! BUT WHEN IT FAILS, CAN I GET AWAY?

THAT DID IT! IT'S COMING DOWN!

THE WHOLE BRIDGE AND ALL THE MACHINES ON IT--THEY'RE GOING DOWN TO THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER!
BUT KRILL! WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

LOOK! THERE HE IS! OUR LEADER IS STILL ALIVE!

HUZZAH! HUZZAH!
YOU HAVE SAVED US, KRILL! WE ALL OWE YOU OUR LIVES!

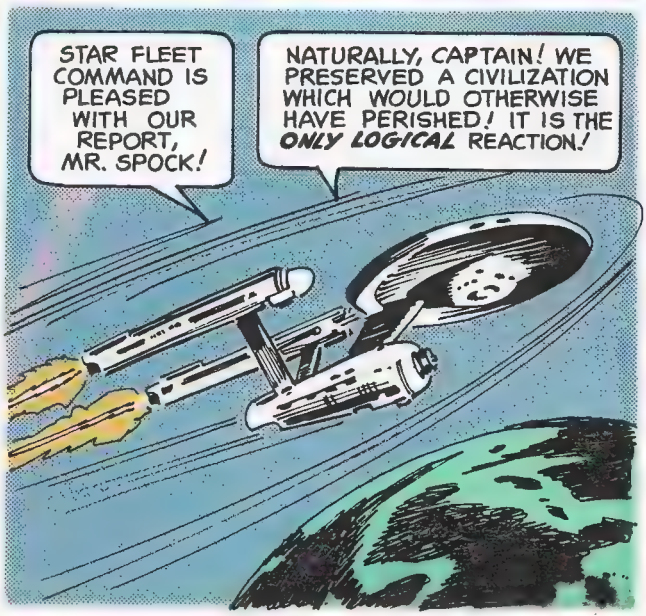
I HATE TO SPOIL THE CELEBRATION, BUT THERE'S STILL A LOT TO DO!
THE ENTERPRISE CAN LOCATE THE OTHER CITY BUILDERS FOR US!
ABOARD THE ENTERPRISE, THEIR LOCATIONS ARE QUICKLY ESTABLISHED...
WE HAVE A FIX ON ALL MACHINES, CAPTAIN!
GOOD! GIVE ME THEIR CO-ORDINATES!
WE'D LIKE TO GO WITH YOU AND SEE THIS JOB THROUGH, KRILL, IF IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU!
CAPTAIN KIRK, I'D BE PROUD TO HAVE YOU AND MR. SPOCK ALONGSIDE OF ME!
THE MACHINE WILL REACT QUICKLY AND COUNTERATTACK! WE MUST WEAKEN ITS UNDERPINNING WITH OUR FIRST BLASTS!
THE METAL IS BUCKLING! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
RUN! I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU! I HAVE TO MAKE SURE THE DAMAGE CANNOT BE REPAIRED!

THAT WAS MUCH TOO CLOSE! THE OTHERS WILL BE EASIER!
CRRRACK
BLAM!!!

AND AFTER ALL THE CITY BUILDERS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED...
WELL, I GUESS THE HARDEST PART IS OVER!
YES, THANKS TO YOU AND YOUR MEN, CAPTAIN KIRK! NOW WE CAN DESTROY THE FACTORIES WHICH *PRODUCE* THE MACHINES!

AND WE STILL HAVE TO DEMOLISH SO MUCH OF OUR USELESS CITIES AND RECLAIM THE LAND!

AND AS THE MEN ARE BEAMED BACK TO THE ENTERPRISE...
IT WILL TAKE US GENERATIONS! BUT WE *CAN* AND *WILL* DO IT! GOOD-BYE, CAPTAIN!

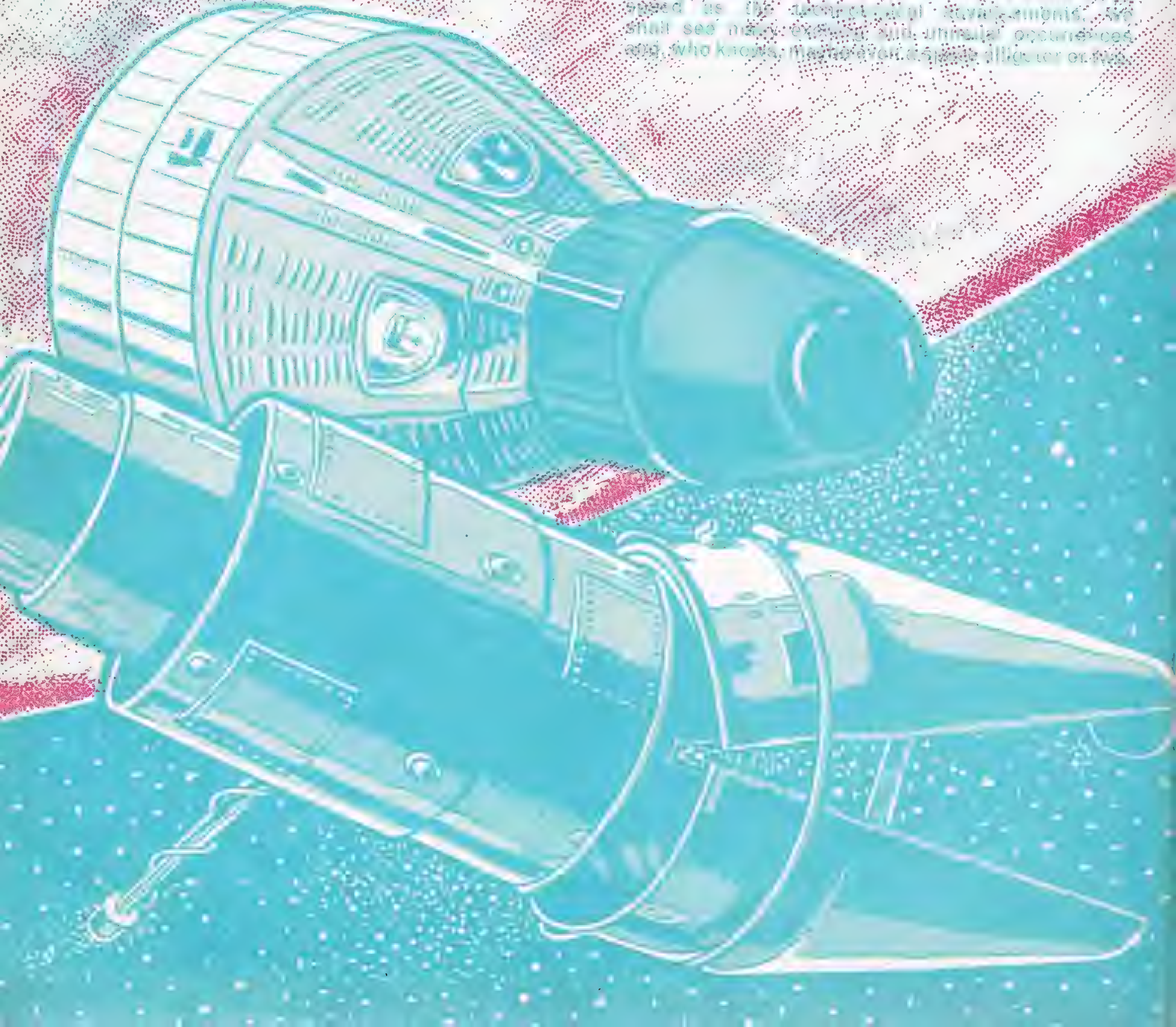

STAR FLEET COMMAND IS PLEASED WITH OUR REPORT, MR. SPOCK!
NATURALLY, CAPTAIN! WE PRESERVED A CIVILIZATION WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE PERISHED! IT IS THE *ONLY LOGICAL* REACTION!

A SPACE NIGHTMARE!

"I saw a monster . . . an alligator, I thought. A space alligator with wide open jaws, and something like a harpoon in the side of its body." Those were the words of Commander Thomas Stafford, an American astronaut, as he described something he saw from the two-man spacecraft Gemini-9. Commander Stafford thought at first that it was an optical illusion, a space mirage; or that the sun had affected his eyes, but what he saw was no illusion. It was extremely real.

Commander Stafford's momentary fears were quickly dispelled, however, when he recognised the "monster" as the ATDA rocket that he and Second Pilot Eugene Cernan were to rendezvous with [illegible] miles above the earth. Its bestial appearance was due to two segments of the nose cone sticking out, and as [illegible] should have been discarded in flight, the rocket had an unfamiliar and frightening appearance.

Man is only beginning his exploration of space, and if the adventure of discovery accelerates at the same speed as the technological advancements, we shall see many exciting and unusual occurrences and, who knows, maybe even a space alligator or two.



SHOOTING STARS

Shooting stars are particularly common between August and December. We have probably all seen at least one in our lives, and they never fail to stir our imaginations.

It is not unusual, therefore, that many superstitions have been built around the shooting star, and it is said that for every person on earth, there is a corresponding star in the sky.

When a member of their tribe dies, the Lolos, a tribe of Chinese, dig a hole into the grave and pray that when the dead man's star falls, it will fall into this hole.

An old Irish legend has it that whenever a woman dreams of a spark from a shooting star falling into her mouth, it is the soul of an unborn child coming to her.

The New Zealand Maoris believe that a shooting star is the soul of a dead man going to the nether world.

In Mexico, the Tarahumares hold that shooting stars are evil spirits, come from their resting place to harm those that wronged them when they were alive.

voyage of discovery

A game for 2, 3 or 4 players

The *Enterprise* has a five year mission in space—to unlock the mysteries of the unknown. Here Captain James Kirk and his crew are travelling to the unexplored planet Nekros In the outer reaches of our galaxy.

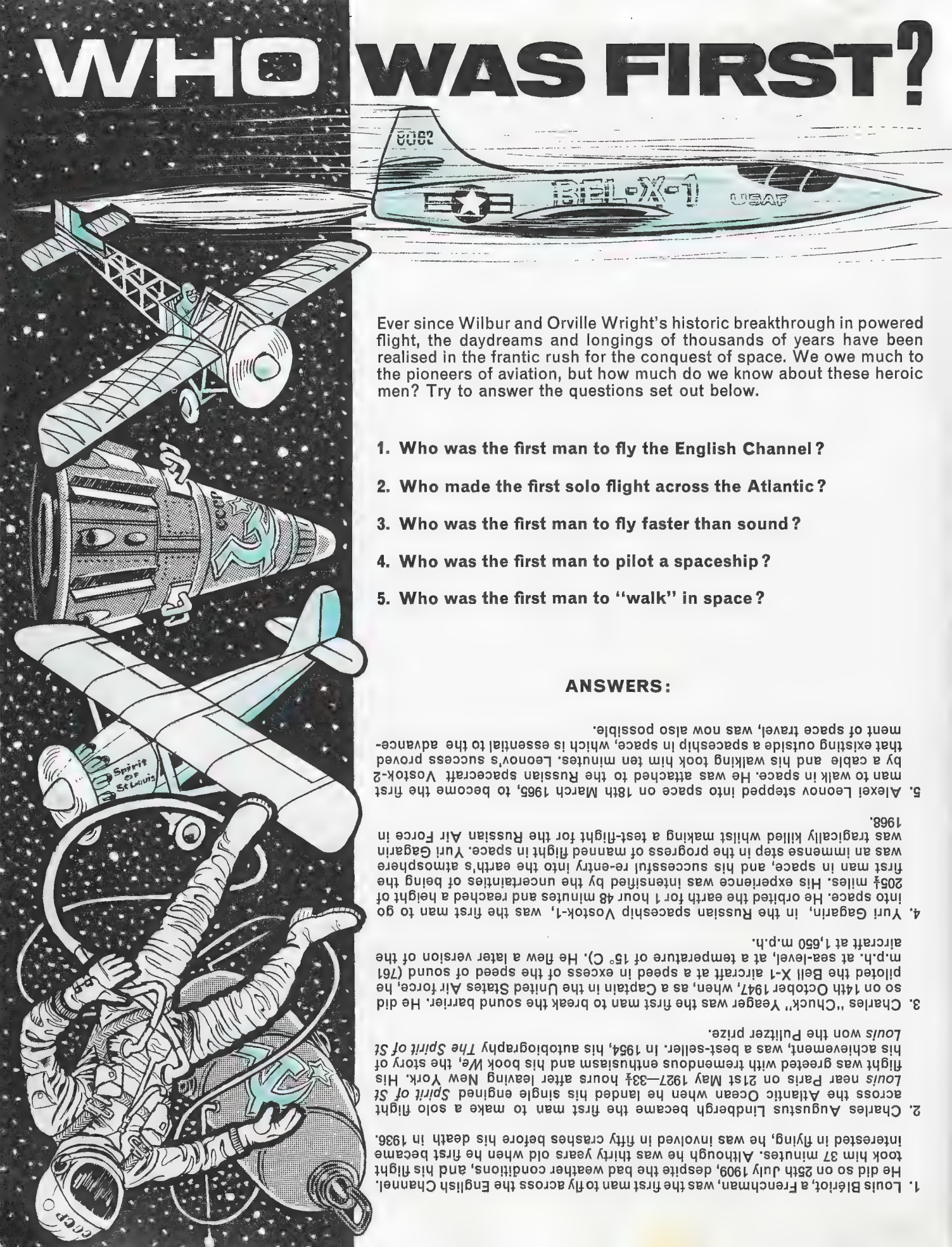
What will they find there?

Help them discover the secrets of this strange world by travelling with them.

Instructions: A dice, and a different coloured counter for each player are all that is needed. If you land on a square that contains instructions you must follow them.

The winner is the first player to reach Nekros.

WHO WAS FIRST?



Ever since Wilbur and Orville Wright's historic breakthrough in powered flight, the daydreams and longings of thousands of years have been realised in the frantic rush for the conquest of space. We owe much to the pioneers of aviation, but how much do we know about these heroic men? Try to answer the questions set out below.

1. **Who was the first man to fly the English Channel?**
2. **Who made the first solo flight across the Atlantic?**
3. **Who was the first man to fly faster than sound?**
4. **Who was the first man to pilot a spaceship?**
5. **Who was the first man to "walk" in space?**

ANSWERS:

1. Louis Blériot, a Frenchman, was the first man to fly across the English Channel. He did so on 25th July 1909, despite the bad weather conditions, and his flight took him 37 minutes. Although he was thirty years old when he first became interested in flying, he was involved in fifty crashes before his death in 1936.

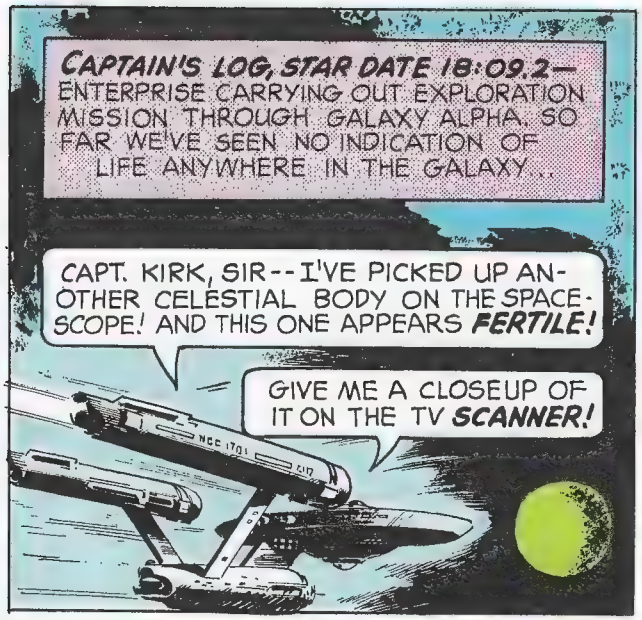
2. Charles Augustus Lindbergh became the first man to make a solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean when he landed his single engined *Spirit of St Louis* near Paris on 21st May 1927—33½ hours after leaving New York. His flight was greeted with tremendous enthusiasm and his book *We*, the story of his achievement, was a best-seller. In 1954, his autobiography *The Spirit of St Louis* won the Pulitzer prize.

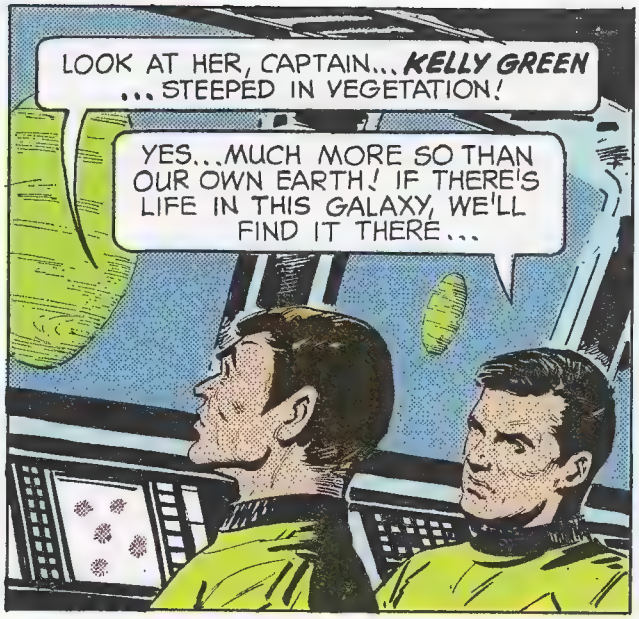
3. Charles "Chuck" Yeager was the first man to break the sound barrier. He did so on 14th October 1947, when, as a Captain in the United States Air force, he piloted the Bell X-1 aircraft at a speed in excess of the speed of sound (761 m.p.h. at sea-level, at a temperature of 15° C). He flew a later version of the aircraft at 1,650 m.p.h.

4. Yuri Gagarin, in the Russian spaceship Vostok-1, was the first man to go into space. He orbited the earth for 1 hour 48 minutes and reached a height of 205½ miles. His experience was intensified by the uncertainties of being the first man in space, and his successful re-entry into the earth's atmosphere was an immense step in the progress of manned flight in space. Yuri Gagarin was tragically killed whilst making a test-flight for the Russian Air Force in 1968.

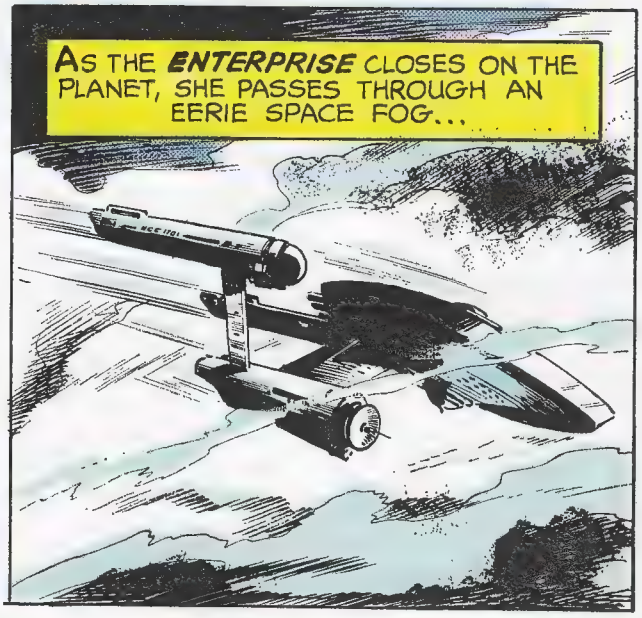
5. Alexei Leonov stepped into space on 18th March 1965, to become the first man to walk in space. He was attached to the Russian spacecraft Vostok-2 by a cable and his walking took him ten minutes. Leonov's success proved that existing outside a spaceship in space, which is essential to the advancement of space travel, was now also possible.

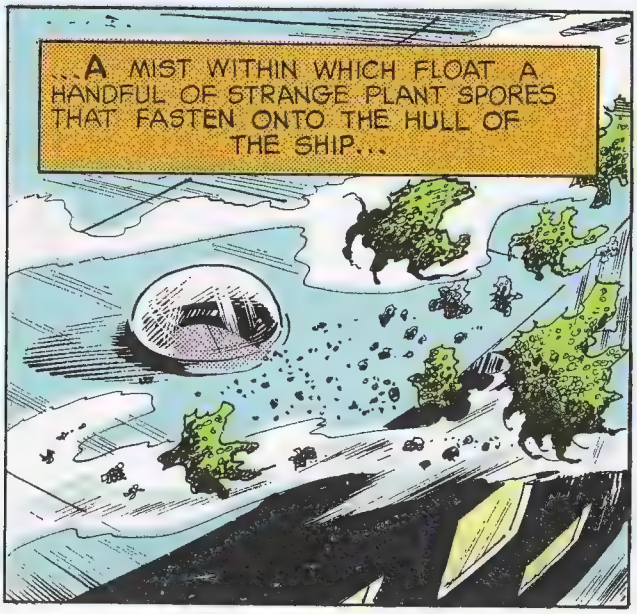
STAR TREK
THE PLANET OF NO RETURN
THE SUCTION FIELD... IT'S BEING CREATED BY A-A GIANT CANNIBAL PLANT!
TRY...TRY TO BREAK FREE... OR THAT AWE-SOME THING WILL DEVOUR US ALL!
IT WAS THE STRANGEST CIVILIZATION IN ALL THE KNOWN UNIVERSE--MORE AWESOME THAN THE MIND OF MAN COULD CONCEIVE! AND THE EXPEDITION TEAM FROM THE STAR SPACESHIP USS ENTERPRISE SOON REGRETTED THEIR DECISION TO EXPLORE K-G...

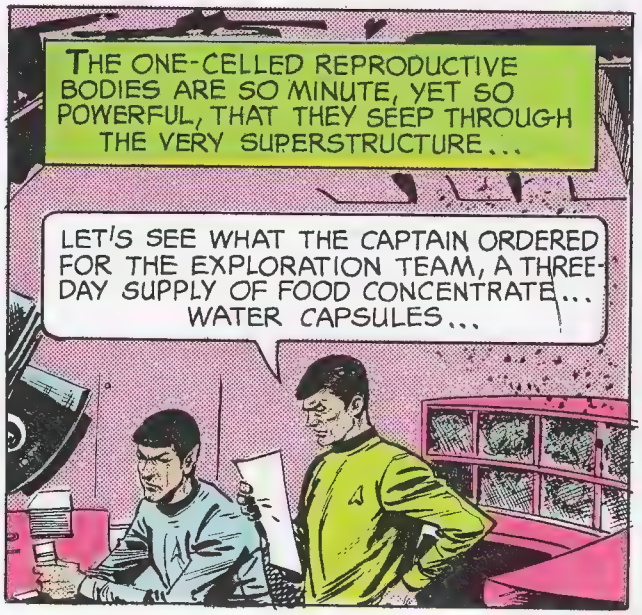

CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE 18:09.2— ENTERPRISE CARRYING OUT EXPLORATION MISSION THROUGH GALAXY ALPHA. SO FAR WE'VE SEEN NO INDICATION OF LIFE ANYWHERE IN THE GALAXY...
CAPT. KIRK, SIR--I'VE PICKED UP ANOTHER CELESTIAL BODY ON THE SPACESCOPE! AND THIS ONE APPEARS FERTILE!
GIVE ME A CLOSEUP OF IT ON THE TV SCANNER!


LOOK AT HER, CAPTAIN... KELLY GREEN ...STEEPED IN VEGETATION!
YES...MUCH MORE SO THAN OUR OWN EARTH! IF THERE'S LIFE IN THIS GALAXY, WE'LL FIND IT THERE...

ATTENTION CREW! WE'RE GOING TO DISPATCH AN EXPLORATION PARTY! MAKE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS!

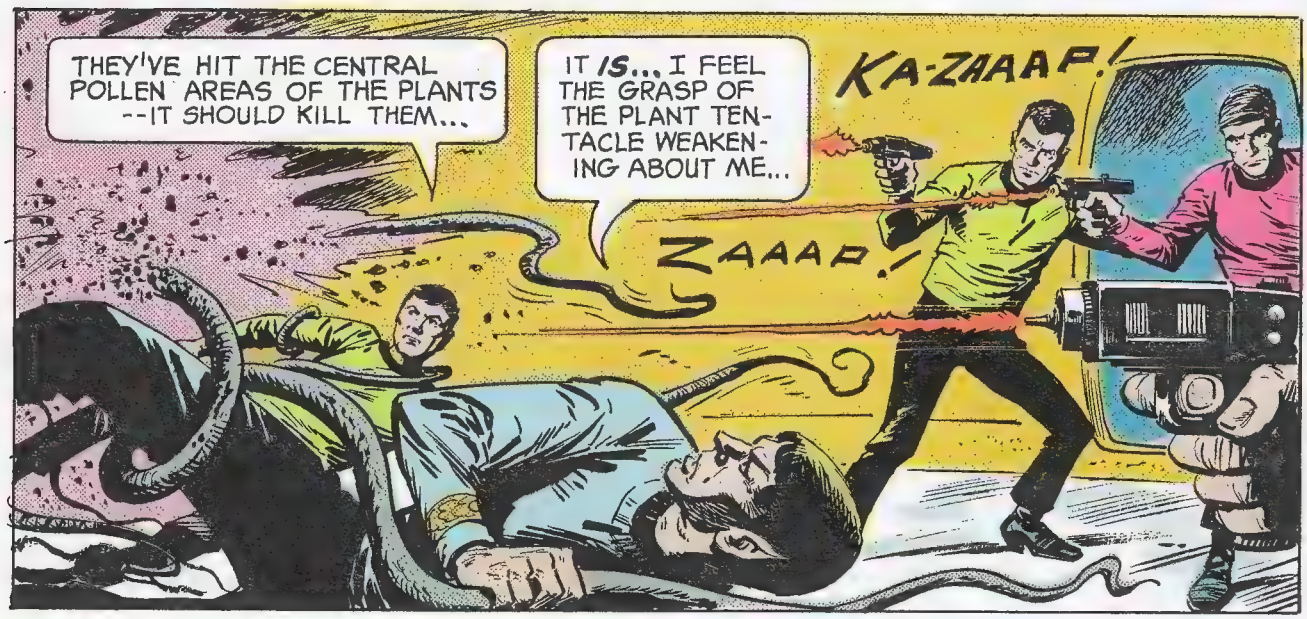

AS THE ENTERPRISE CLOSES ON THE PLANET, SHE PASSES THROUGH AN EERIE SPACE FOG...


...A MIST WITHIN WHICH FLOAT A HANDFUL OF STRANGE PLANT SPORES THAT FASTEN ONTO THE HULL OF THE SHIP...


THE ONE-CELLED REPRODUCTIVE BODIES ARE SO MINUTE, YET SO POWERFUL, THAT THEY SEEP THROUGH THE VERY SUPERSTRUCTURE...
LET'S SEE WHAT THE CAPTAIN ORDERED FOR THE EXPLORATION TEAM, A THREE-DAY SUPPLY OF FOOD CONCENTRATE... WATER CAPSULES...

SUDDENLY...
LISTEN TO THAT! WHAT IN THE WILD HEAVENS HAS GOTTEN INTO THOSE GUINEA PIGS..?
VERY STRANGE! LET US OBSERVE THEM, DR. McCOY...
SQUEEEK!
SQUEEK
SQUEEE!
THE TWO MEN TURN--THEIR EYES FALL ON A STARTLING SIGHT...
THEY'RE MAKING A FANTASTIC TRANS-FORMATION OF SOME KIND! IT'S AS IF—
AS IF THEY'RE TURNING INTO PLANTS! WE'VE GOT TO RECORD THIS ON FILM FOR FUTURE RESEARCH REFERENCE...
BUT BEFORE DR. McCOY CAN ACT, A MENACE NO MORTAL MAN HAS EVER KNOWN EXPLODES FROM THE CAGE AND...
T-THE ANIMALS...THEY'VE TRANS-FORMED INTO GIANT, HOSTILE TREES!
AND THEY ARE ON A RAMPAGE--OUT TO DESTROY US BOTH! GUARDS! GUARDS!

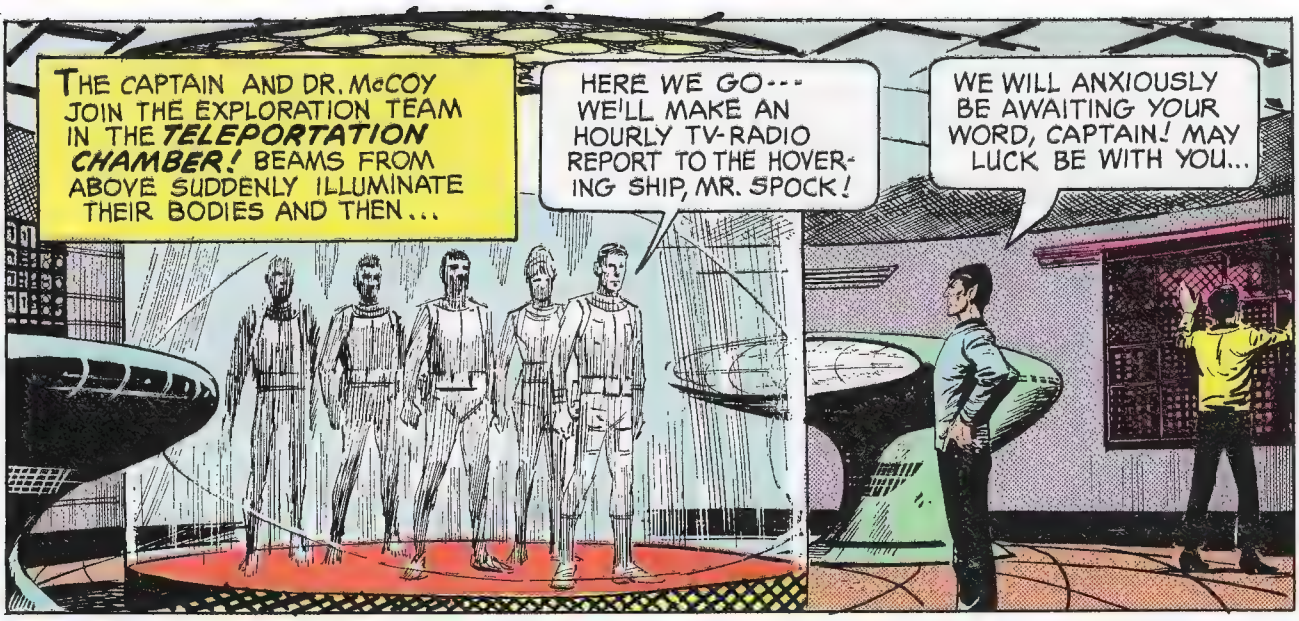
W-WHAT IS IT..?
DON'T ASK QUESTIONS! THE THINGS ARE ABOUT TO DEVOUR THE DOCTOR AND MR. SPOCK! FIRE! FIRE!

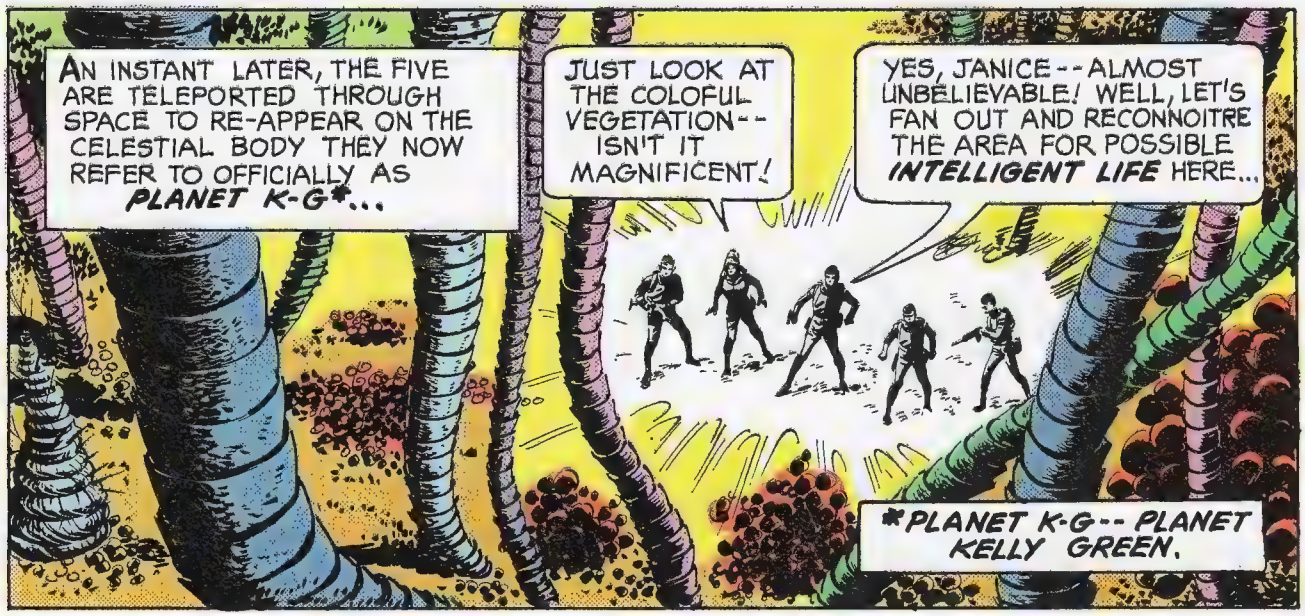

THEY'VE HIT THE CENTRAL POLLEN AREAS OF THE PLANTS --IT SHOULD KILL THEM...
IT IS... I FEEL THE GRASP OF THE PLANT TENTACLE WEAKENING ABOUT ME...
KA-ZAAAP!
ZAAAP!

YOU ARE TO BE COMMENDED, GUARDS --YOU... SAVED OUR LIVES!
HOW'D THAT THING GET IN HERE, ANYWAY, MR. SPOCK?

THAT IS SOMETHING THAT MUST BE LEARNED--WE MUST KNOW THE CAUSE TO FIND THE CURE-- THE PREVENTATIVE!
WE'D BETTER REPORT THIS TO THE CAPTAIN AT ONCE! NO TELLING WHEN OR WHERE THOSE PLANT CREATURES WILL CROP UP AGAIN!

AN EMERGENCY CONFERENCE IS HELD! AND SOON AFTER...
SURELY, YOU MEN OF SCIENCE MUST HAVE SOME IDEA -- A LEAD TO HOW SUCH A FREAK OCCURRENCE LIKE THIS COULD HAPPEN...
I HAVE ONE THOUGHT--WEEKS AGO WE SPACE-TESTED BOTH THE GUINEA PIGS OUTSIDE THE SHIP...
IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE, IN THIS UNKNOWN GALAXY, THAT THEY PICKED UP ALIEN SPORES...
AND THESE SPORES, AFTER A PERIOD OF TIME, REACTED ON THE ANIMALS PHYSICALLY AND BROUGHT ABOUT THE TRANSFORMATION! AN EXCELLENT THEORY, MR. SPOCK!
I'LL RUN A SERIES OF TESTS ON THE PLANT REMAINS WHILE YOU GENTLEMEN ARE ON THE EXPLORATION MISSION!
WHICH REMINDS ME--IT'S NEARLY "D" HOUR! WE'D BETTER GET A MOVE ON, DOCTOR!
*"D" HOUR--DEPARTURE TIME.

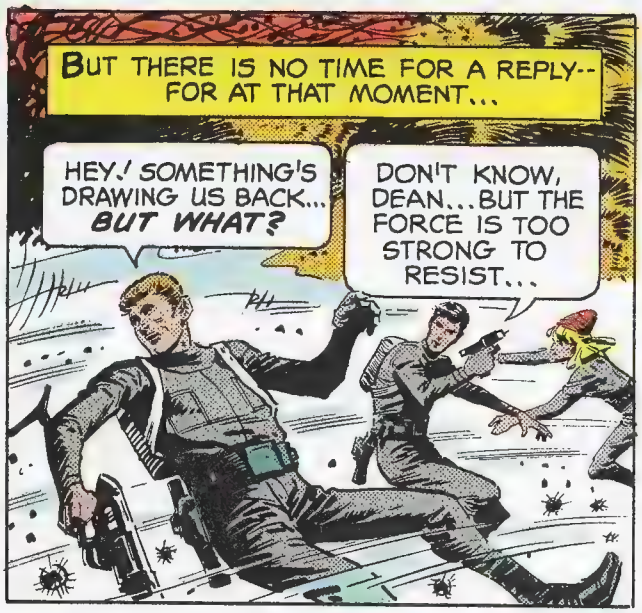

THE CAPTAIN AND DR. McCOY JOIN THE EXPLORATION TEAM IN THE TELEPORTATION CHAMBER! BEAMS FROM ABOVE SUDDENLY ILLUMINATE THEIR BODIES AND THEN...
HERE WE GO--- WE'LL MAKE AN HOURLY TV-RADIO REPORT TO THE HOVERING SHIP, MR. SPOCK!
WE WILL ANXIOUSLY BE AWAITING YOUR WORD, CAPTAIN! MAY LUCK BE WITH YOU...

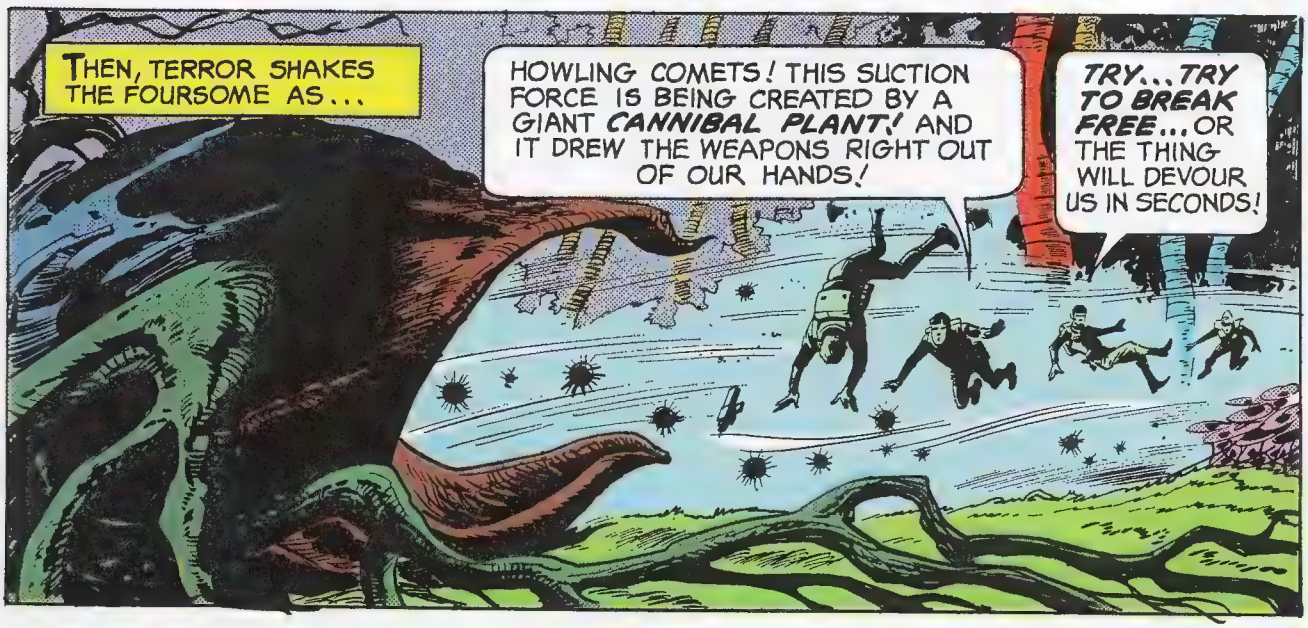

AN INSTANT LATER, THE FIVE ARE TELEPORTED THROUGH SPACE TO RE-APPEAR ON THE CELESTIAL BODY THEY NOW REFER TO OFFICIALLY AS PLANET K-G*...
JUST LOOK AT THE COLOFUL VEGETATION-- ISN'T IT MAGNIFICENT!
YES, JANICE--ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE! WELL, LET'S FAN OUT AND RECONNOITRE THE AREA FOR POSSIBLE INTELLIGENT LIFE HERE...
*PLANET K-G-- PLANET KELLY GREEN.

THE TEAM MOVES ACROSS THE CLEARING! AS THEY DO SO, CREWMAN HUNT PASSES THROUGH A PATCH OF MIST...

AND AS THE GROUP REACHES THE THICK, MULTICOLORED FOLIAGE...
ALL RIGHT--NOW WE'LL REGROUP AND... HUNT! WHAT IN HEAVEN HAS HAPPENED TO YOU?

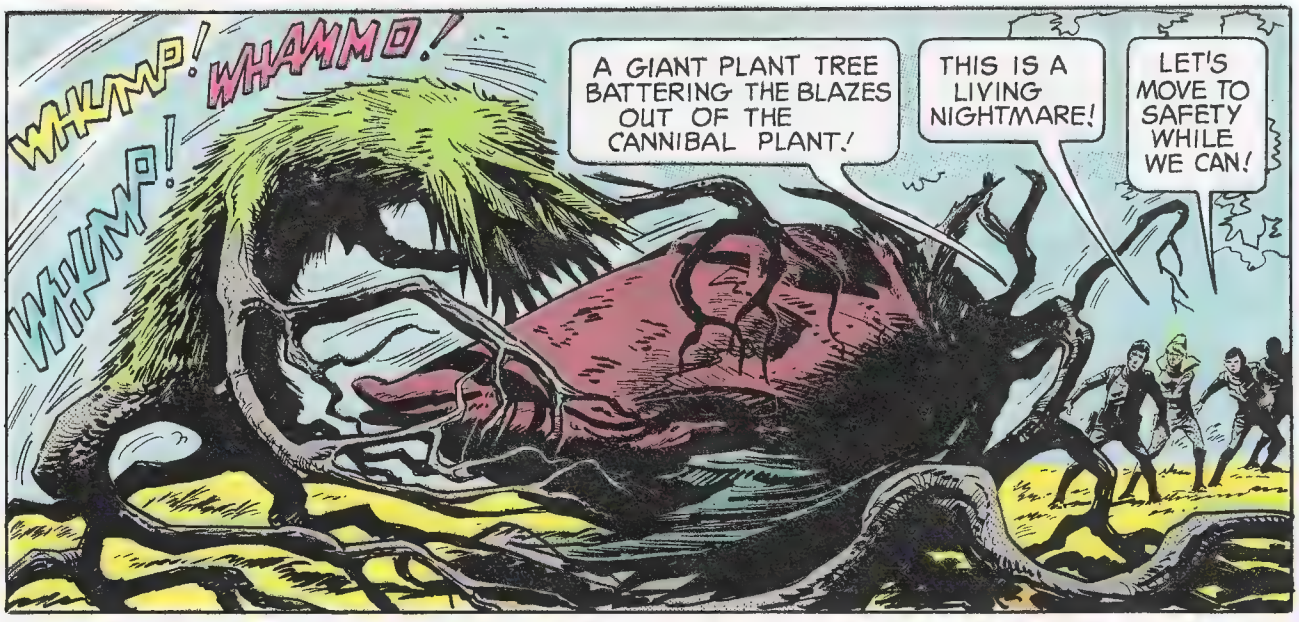
I-I DON'T KNOW ...FEEL STRANGE...
EEEEK! HE'S CHANGING...INTO A-A PLANT!
JUST LIKE THE GUINEA PIGS BACK ON THE SHIP! HUNT! CAN YOU UNDERSTAND ME?

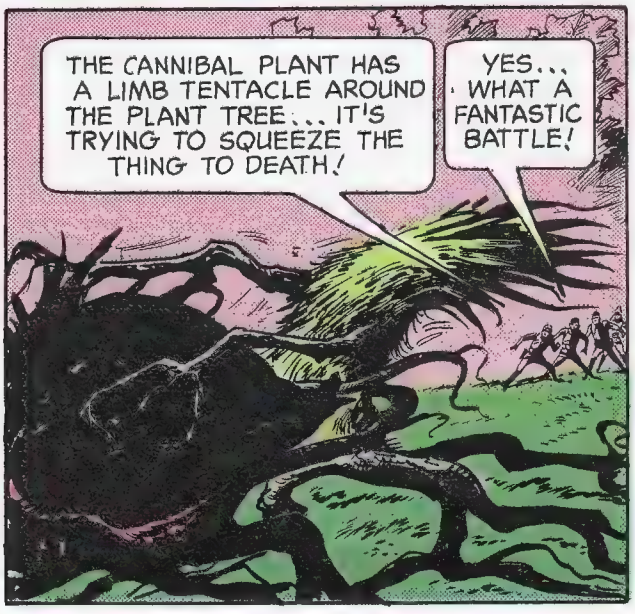

BUT THERE IS NO TIME FOR A REPLY-- FOR AT THAT MOMENT...
HEY! SOMETHING'S DRAWING US BACK... BUT WHAT?
DON'T KNOW, DEAN...BUT THE FORCE IS TOO STRONG TO RESIST...

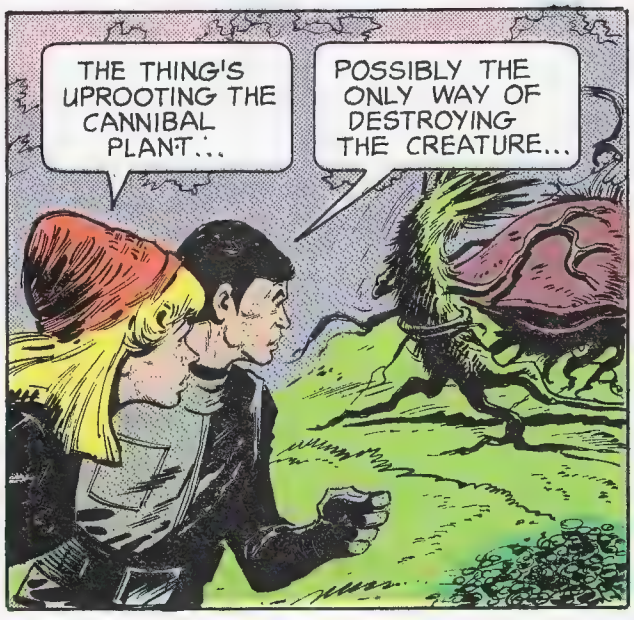

THEN, TERROR SHAKES THE FOURSOME AS...
HOWLING COMETS! THIS SUCTION FORCE IS BEING CREATED BY A GIANT CANNIBAL PLANT! AND IT DREW THE WEAPONS RIGHT OUT OF OUR HANDS!
TRY...TRY TO BREAK FREE...OR THE THING WILL DEVOUR US IN SECONDS!

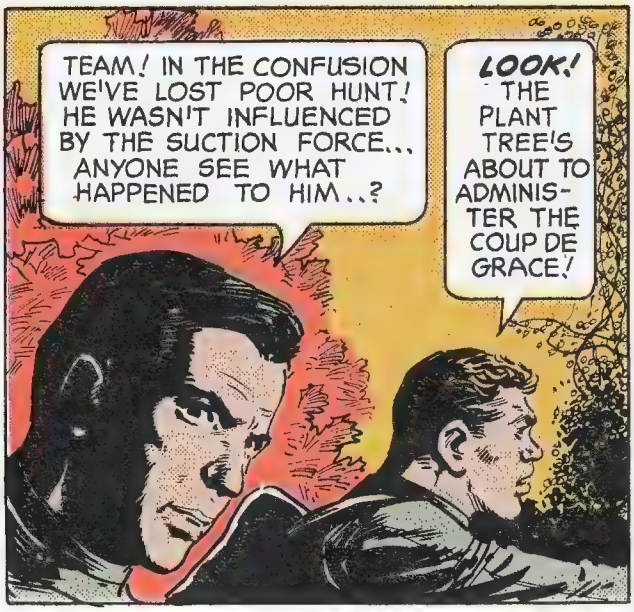
IT'S NO USE...THE MONSTER'S GOT US ALL...
WHAT A WAY TO DIE!

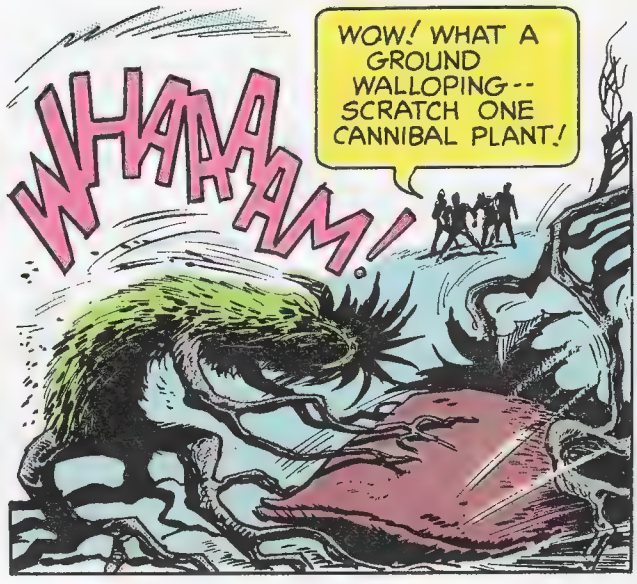
SUDDENLY...
THE SUCTION FORCE...IT'S SUDDENLY STOPPED! BUT WHY?
THERE'S YOUR ANSWER! LOOK!

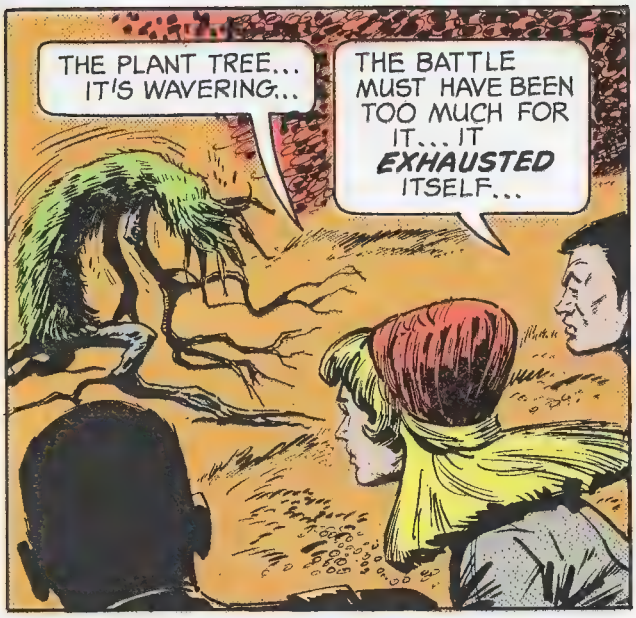

WHUMP!
WHAMMO!
WHUMP!
A GIANT PLANT TREE BATTERING THE BLAZES OUT OF THE CANNIBAL PLANT!
THIS IS A LIVING NIGHTMARE!
LET'S MOVE TO SAFETY WHILE WE CAN!

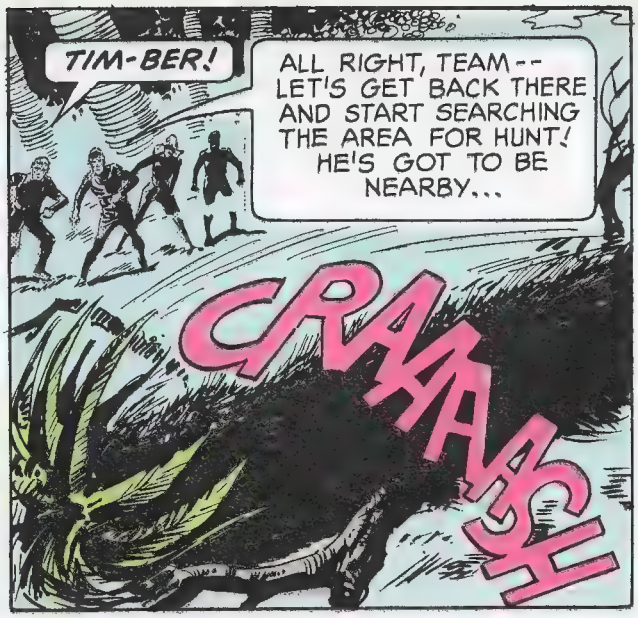

THE CANNIBAL PLANT HAS A LIMB TENTACLE AROUND THE PLANT TREE... IT'S TRYING TO SQUEEZE THE THING TO DEATH!
YES... WHAT A FANTASTIC BATTLE!


THE THING'S UPROOTING THE CANNIBAL PLANT...
POSSIBLY THE ONLY WAY OF DESTROYING THE CREATURE...

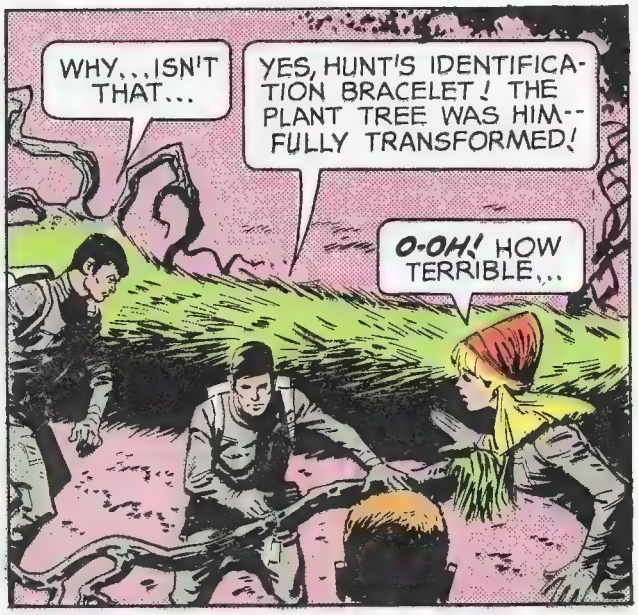

TEAM! IN THE CONFUSION WE'VE LOST POOR HUNT! HE WASN'T INFLUENCED BY THE SUCTION FORCE... ANYONE SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM..?
LOOK! THE PLANT TREE'S ABOUT TO ADMINISTER THE COUP DE GRACE!

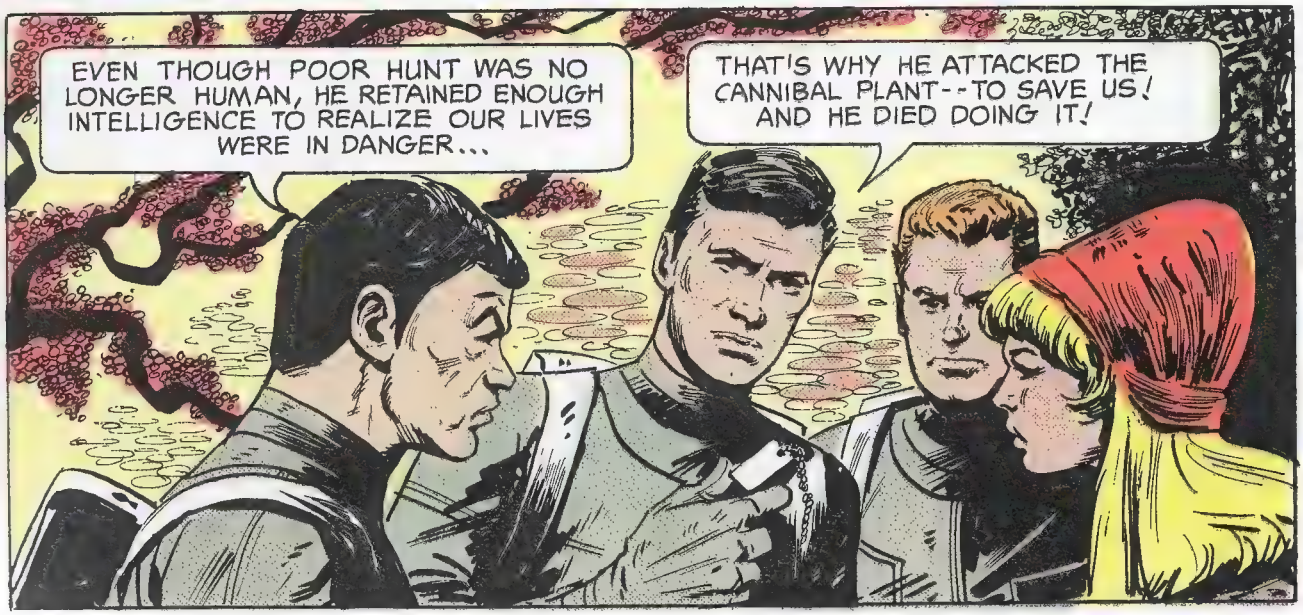

WHAAAAM!
WOW! WHAT A GROUND WALLOPING -- SCRATCH ONE CANNIBAL PLANT!

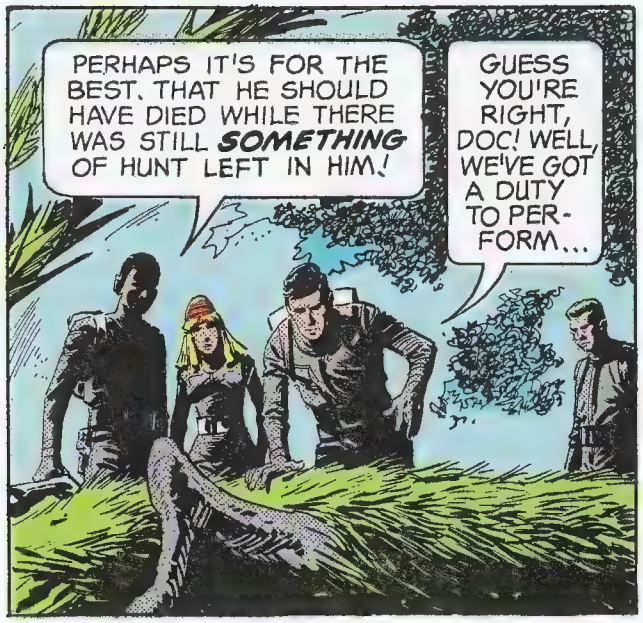

THE PLANT TREE... IT'S WAVERING...
THE BATTLE MUST HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH FOR IT... IT EXHAUSTED ITSELF...

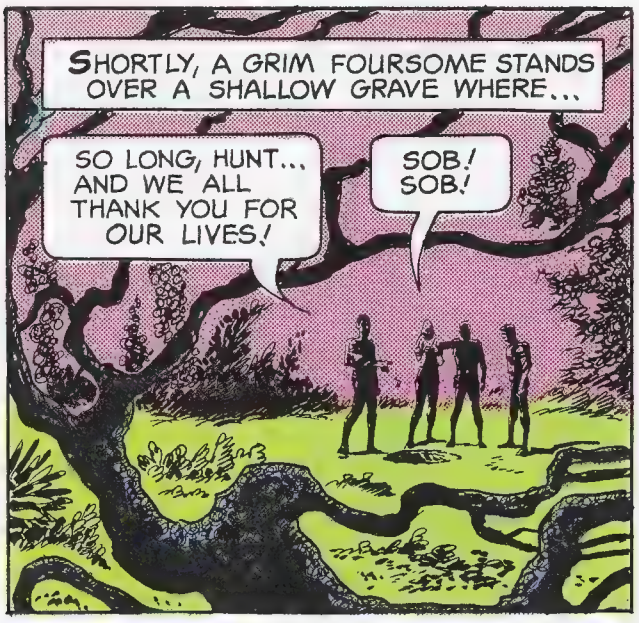

TIM-BER!
ALL RIGHT, TEAM--LET'S GET BACK THERE AND START SEARCHING THE AREA FOR HUNT! HE'S GOT TO BE NEARBY...
CRAAACK!

I'LL CHECK OUT THAT SIDE OF THE CLEARING...
WAIT! THAT... WON'T BE NECESSARY, DEAN! I'VE... I'VE FOUND HUNT!


WHY...ISN'T THAT...
YES, HUNT'S IDENTIFICATION BRACELET! THE PLANT TREE WAS HIM--FULLY TRANSFORMED!
O-OH! HOW TERRIBLE...

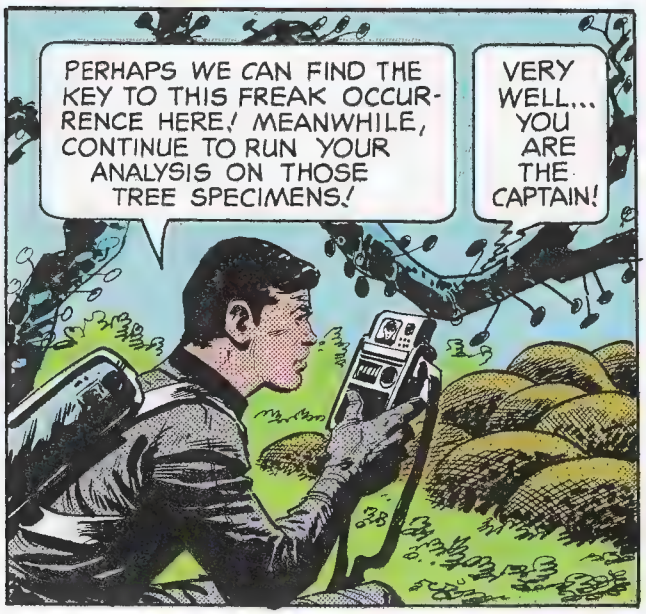

EVEN THOUGH POOR HUNT WAS NO LONGER HUMAN, HE RETAINED ENOUGH INTELLIGENCE TO REALIZE OUR LIVES WERE IN DANGER...
THAT'S WHY HE ATTACKED THE CANNIBAL PLANT--TO SAVE US! AND HE DIED DOING IT!


PERHAPS IT'S FOR THE BEST, THAT HE SHOULD HAVE DIED WHILE THERE WAS STILL SOMETHING OF HUNT LEFT IN HIM!
GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, DOC! WELL, WE'VE GOT A DUTY TO PERFORM...


SHORTLY, A GRIM FOURSOME STANDS OVER A SHALLOW GRAVE WHERE...
SO LONG, HUNT... AND WE ALL THANK YOU FOR OUR LIVES!
SOB! SOB!

SOON AFTER, WHEN THE GRIM WORD IS RADIO-TV'D TO THE USS ENTERPRISE...
A PITY--HUNT WAS A GREAT SPACEMAN...WE'LL MISS HIM! GIVE ME YOUR DEPARTURE TIME, CAPTAIN--AND I WILL HAVE THE MATERIALIZATION BEAMS ACTIVATED!
NO... WE'RE NOT RETURNING TO THE SHIP IMMEDIATELY, MR. SPOCK!

YOU CANNOT BE SERIOUS! IT IS NOW QUITE OBVIOUS THAT PLANET K-G IS IN SOME WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS TRANSFORMATION PHENOMENON! YOU ARE ALL IN DANGER THERE...

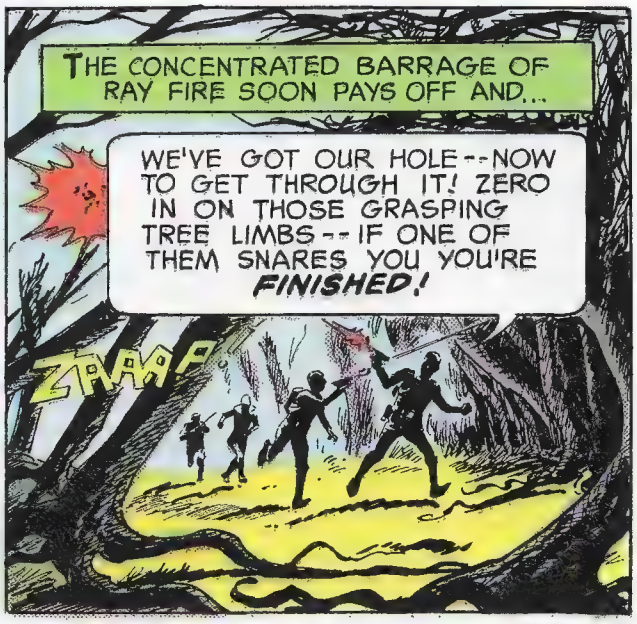

PERHAPS WE CAN FIND THE KEY TO THIS FREAK OCCURRENCE HERE! MEANWHILE, CONTINUE TO RUN YOUR ANALYSIS ON THOSE TREE SPECIMENS!
VERY WELL... YOU ARE THE CAPTAIN!

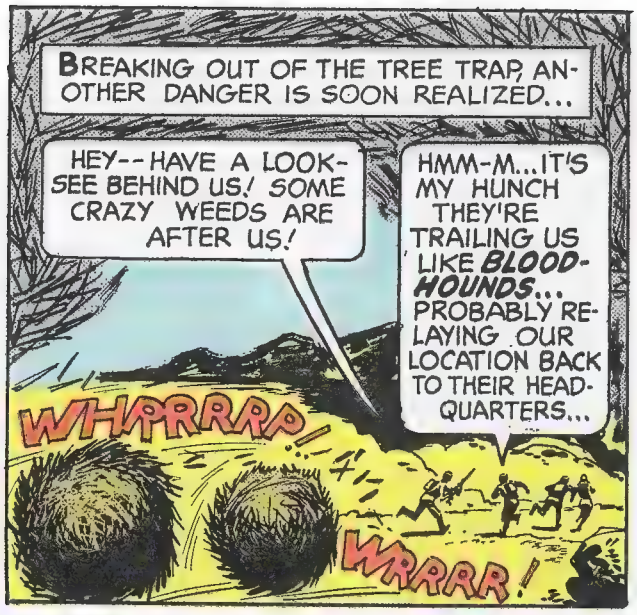
RECOVERING THEIR WEAPONS, THE FOURSOME MOVES THROUGH THE OMINOUS FOLIAGE WITHOUT INCIDENT! THEN...
LOOK AT THAT!
INCREDIBLE!
I-I CAN SCARCELY BELIEVE MY EYES!

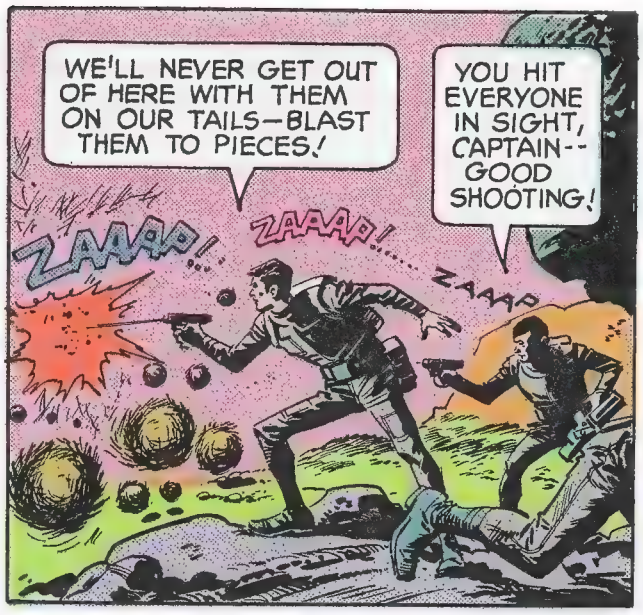
A- A COMMUNITY OF VEGETATION... HOUSES... BUILDINGS... JUST AS WE HAVE ON EARTH!
FANTASTIC! THIS PLANT LIFE AN INTELLIGENT SOCIETY -- LISTEN! THEY'RE ACTUALLY COMMUNICATING WITH ONE ANOTHER! LET'S GO DOWN FOR A CLOSER LOOK...
WHEEEEE...
FLUTTER
FLUTTER

SUDDENLY...
THE TREES...THEY'RE MOVING...CLOSING IN ON US!
PROBABLY SENTRIES! START TRIGGERING... WE'VE GOT TO BLAST OUR WAY OUT OF THIS FIX!

CONCENTRATE OUR FIRE ON ONE SPECIFIC AREA... OPEN A HOLE IN THEIR RANKS BIG ENOUGH TO SLIP OUT OF HERE...
ZAAP
ZAAAP...

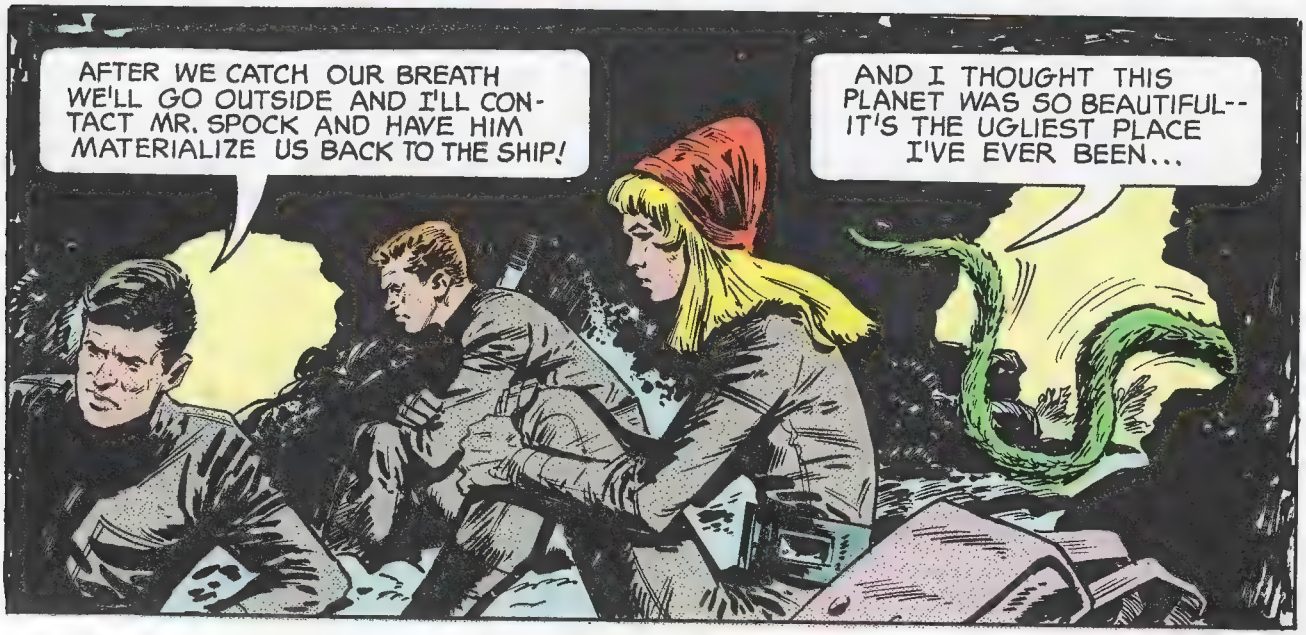

THE CONCENTRATED BARRAGE OF RAY FIRE SOON PAYS OFF AND...
WE'VE GOT OUR HOLE--NOW TO GET THROUGH IT! ZERO IN ON THOSE GRASPING TREE LIMBS--IF ONE OF THEM SNARES YOU YOU'RE FINISHED!
ZAAAP


BREAKING OUT OF THE TREE TRAP, ANOTHER DANGER IS SOON REALIZED...
HEY--HAVE A LOOK-SEE BEHIND US! SOME CRAZY WEEDS ARE AFTER US!
HMM-M...IT'S MY HUNCH THEY'RE TRAILING US LIKE BLOOD-HOUNDS... PROBABLY RELAYING OUR LOCATION BACK TO THEIR HEAD-QUARTERS...
WHRRRRP!
WRRRR!


WE'LL NEVER GET OUT OF HERE WITH THEM ON OUR TAILS—BLAST THEM TO PIECES!
YOU HIT EVERYONE IN SIGHT, CAPTAIN--GOOD SHOOTING!
ZAAAP!
ZAAAP!
ZAAAP

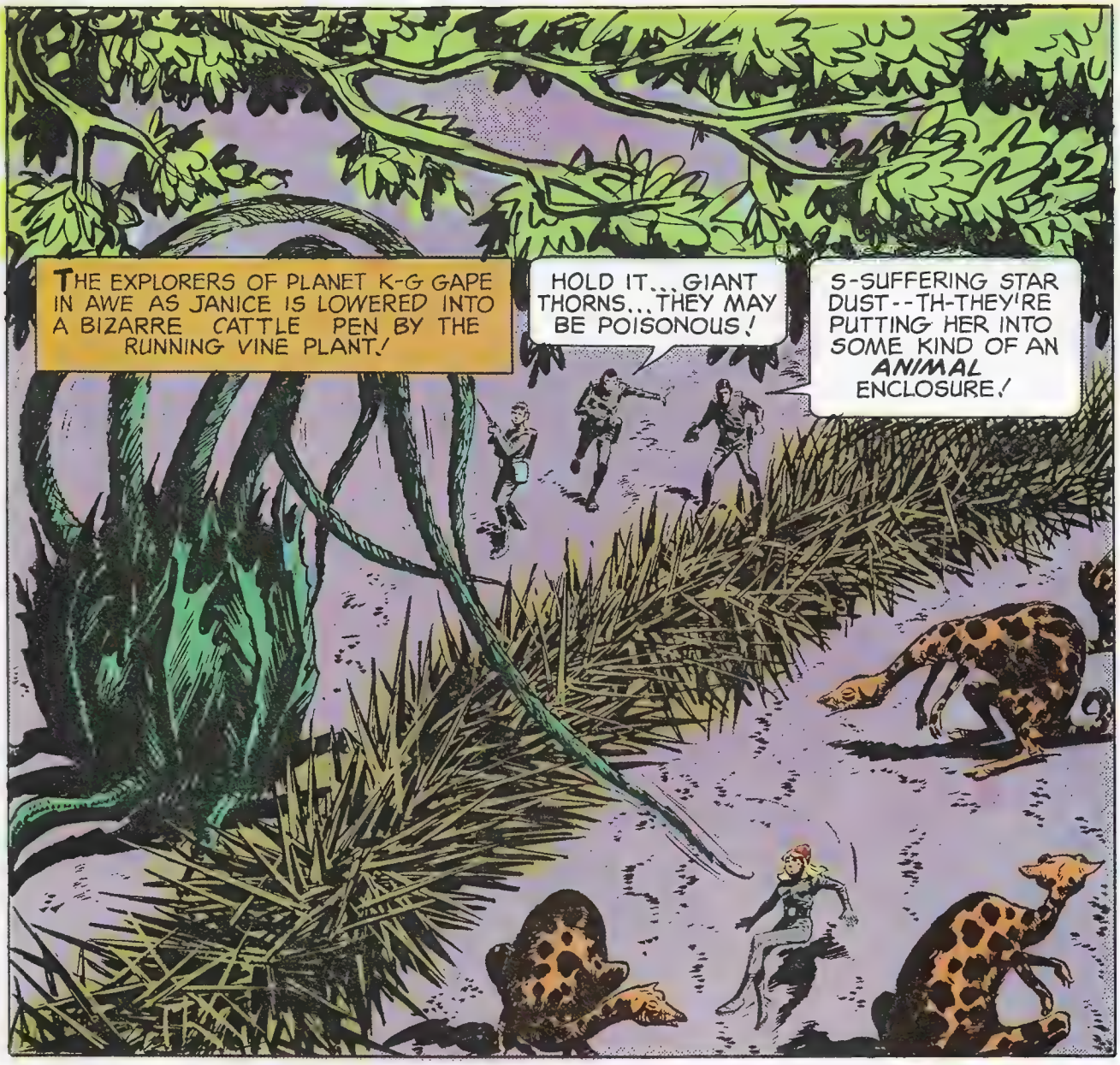
I-I'M EXHAUSTED...
STEADY, HONEY--I KNOW IT'S BEEN ROUGH...
THINK I SEE A CAVERN UP AHEAD! PERHAPS WE CAN CATCH A BREATH OR TWO IN THERE...

TENSE MINUTES LATER, WITHIN A SMALL MOUNTAIN CAVERN...
LET'S FACE IT, CAPTAIN--WE'RE TOO LITTLE IN NUMBER AND FIRE POWER TO FIGHT THIS... THIS INCREDIBLE NATION OF VEGETATION! WE MUST RETURN TO THE ENTERPRISE!
I READ YOU, DOCTOR--AND YOU'RE RIGHT!


AFTER WE CATCH OUR BREATH WE'LL GO OUTSIDE AND I'LL CONTACT MR. SPOCK AND HAVE HIM MATERIALIZE US BACK TO THE SHIP!
AND I THOUGHT THIS PLANET WAS SO BEAUTIFUL--IT'S THE UGLIEST PLACE I'VE EVER BEEN...

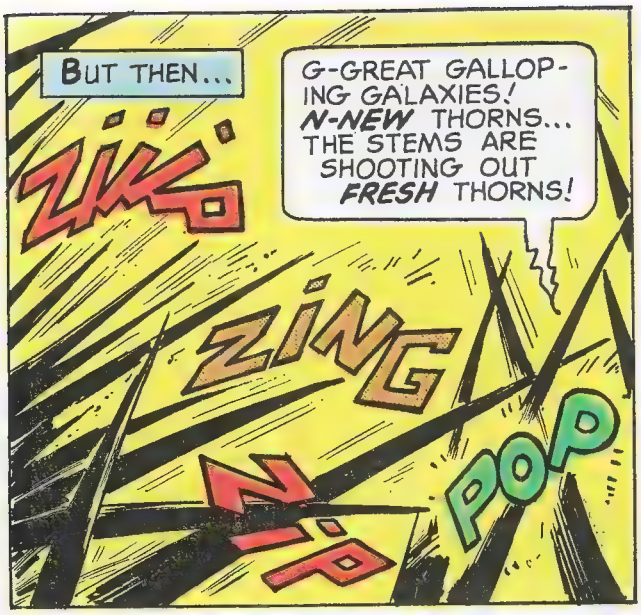
SUDDENLY, THE CRAWLING, VINE THING REARS LIKE A COBRA BEHIND THE FOURSOME...
... AND STRIKES...
OH-H!
G-GREAT HANNAH!
THE BESTIAL PLANT WHIPLASHES BACK WITH ITS PREY...
G-GRAB HER ...QUICK!
ROOOOOO!
WHIIIISH!
THEN...
C-CAN'T HANG ON... IT'S STRONG AS A... A STEEL CABLE!
A-AND LASHING ... LIKE A BULL WHIP...
SWOOOSH
WOOOSH!
EEEEEEEE!

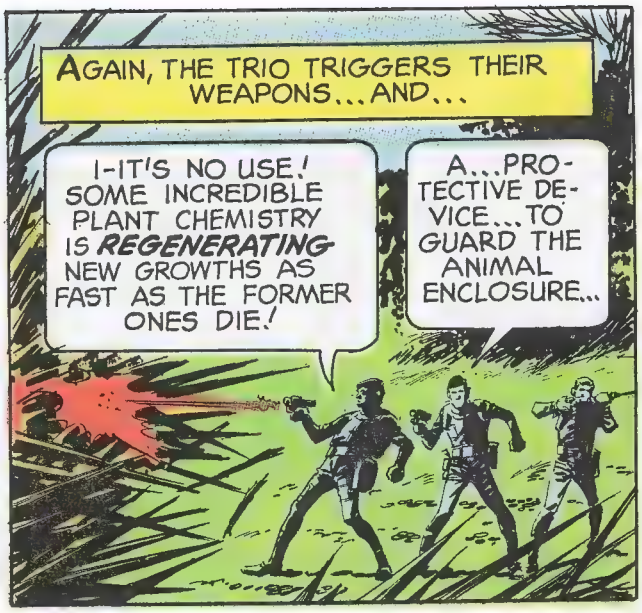
DOCTOR... CAPTAIN!... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
Y-YES! WHERE'S IT GOING? WHAT'S THAT LOATHESOME THING DOING WITH JANICE?
I-IT WAS TOO QUICK FOR ME! THE THING'S RECOILING BACK INTO THE THICK FOLIAGE WITH HER!
LET'S GET AFTER IT FAST! GRAB OUR WEAPONS IN THE CAVE!
THERE IT IS -- DEAD AHEAD... MOVING LIKE AN EARTH SNAKE!
BUT MOMENTS LATER...
IT'S GONE... VANISHED! THIS FOLIAGE IS TOO THICK TO SEE THROUGH!
THAT DEAD TREE, DEAN... CLIMB IT AND SEE IF YOU CAN PEER OVER THIS GREEN NIGHTMARE!
DEAN ASCENDS THE DEAD TREE... AND SUDDENLY, HIS FACE GOES WHITE WITH SHOCK...
OH, NO... NO! I-IT'S TERRIBLE! J-JANICE... SHE'S BEING PUT INTO A... A... CATTLE PEN!


THE EXPLORERS OF PLANET K-G GAPE IN AWE AS JANICE IS LOWERED INTO A BIZARRE CATTLE PEN BY THE RUNNING VINE PLANT!
HOLD IT... GIANT THORNS... THEY MAY BE POISONOUS!
S-SUFFERING STAR DUST--TH-THEY'RE PUTTING HER INTO SOME KIND OF AN ANIMAL ENCLOSURE!

HURRY! BLAST A PATH THROUGH THIS THORN ENTANGLEMENT! JANICE IS TRAPPED AMID A HORDE OF PLANETARY BEASTS!

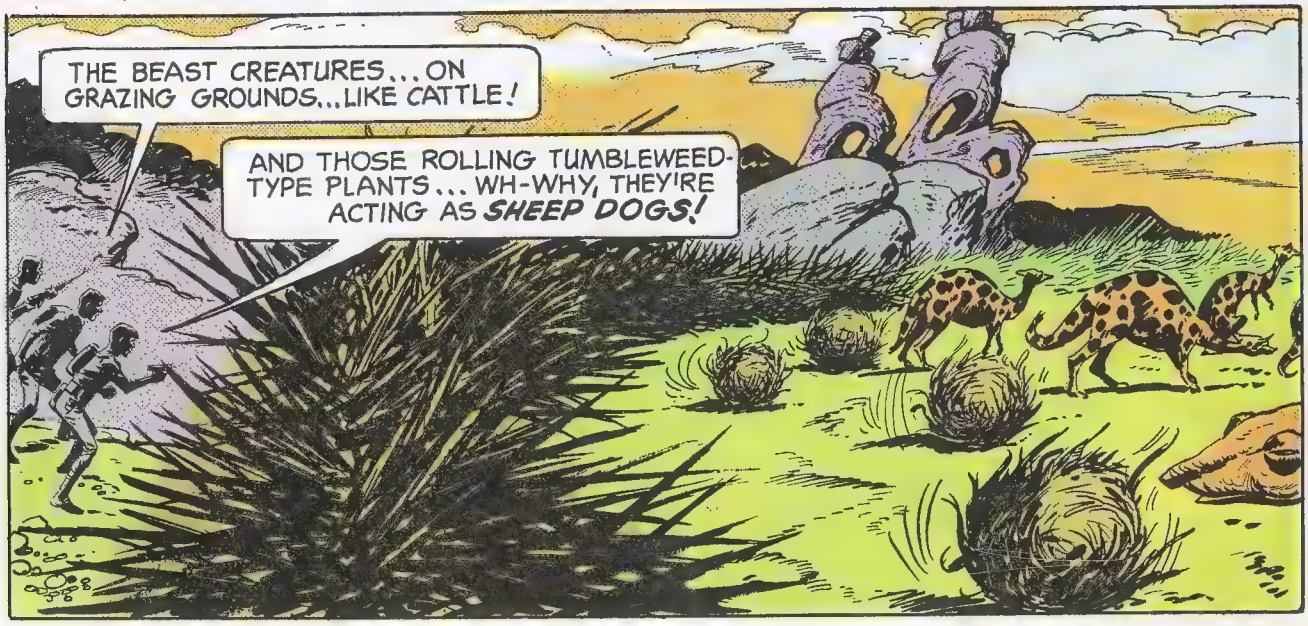
THAT'S A BIG ENOUGH HOLE... LET'S MOVE!
ZAP!
ZAP!

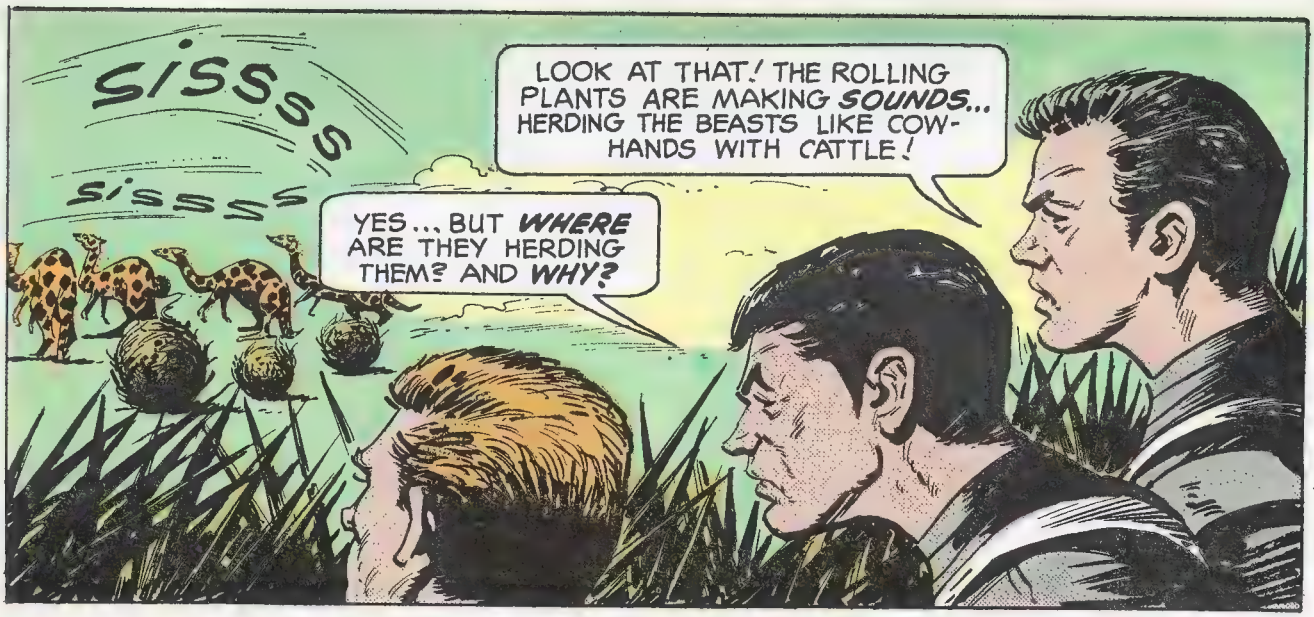

BUT THEN...
G-GREAT GALLOPING GALAXIES! N-NEW THORNS... THE STEMS ARE SHOOTING OUT FRESH THORNS!
ZIKKO
ZING
ZIP
POP

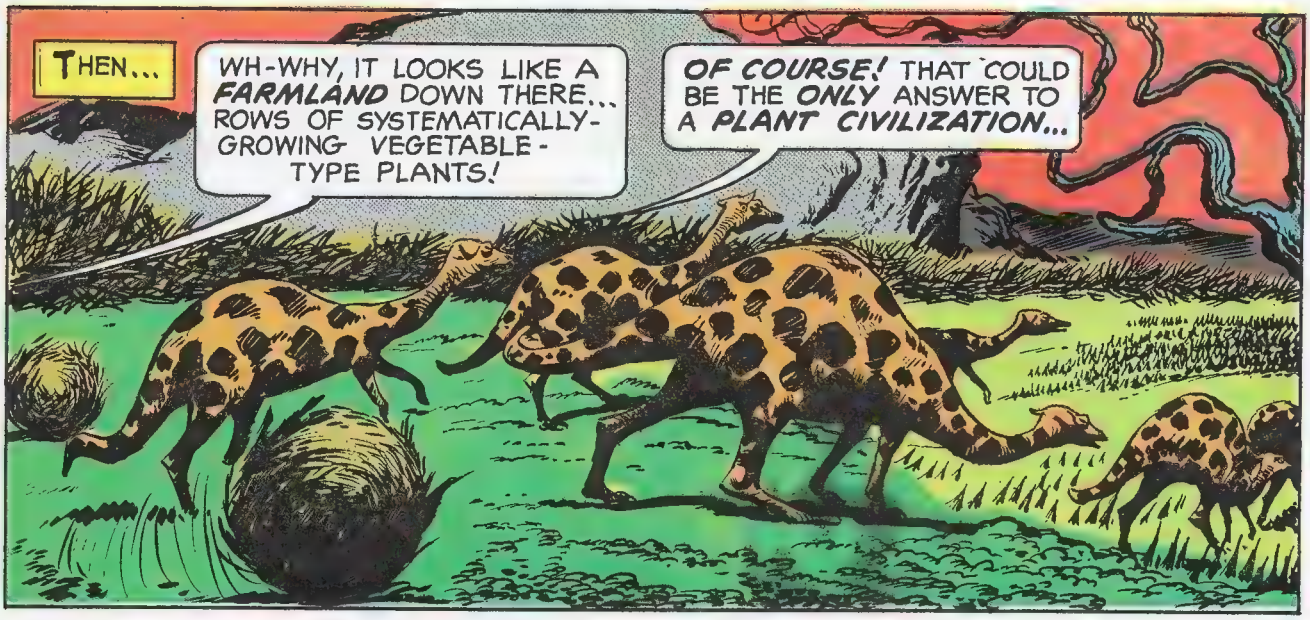

AGAIN, THE TRIO TRIGGERS THEIR WEAPONS... AND...
I-IT'S NO USE! SOME INCREDIBLE PLANT CHEMISTRY IS REGENERATING NEW GROWTHS AS FAST AS THE FORMER ONES DIE!
A...PROTECTIVE DEVICE...TO GUARD THE ANIMAL ENCLOSURE...

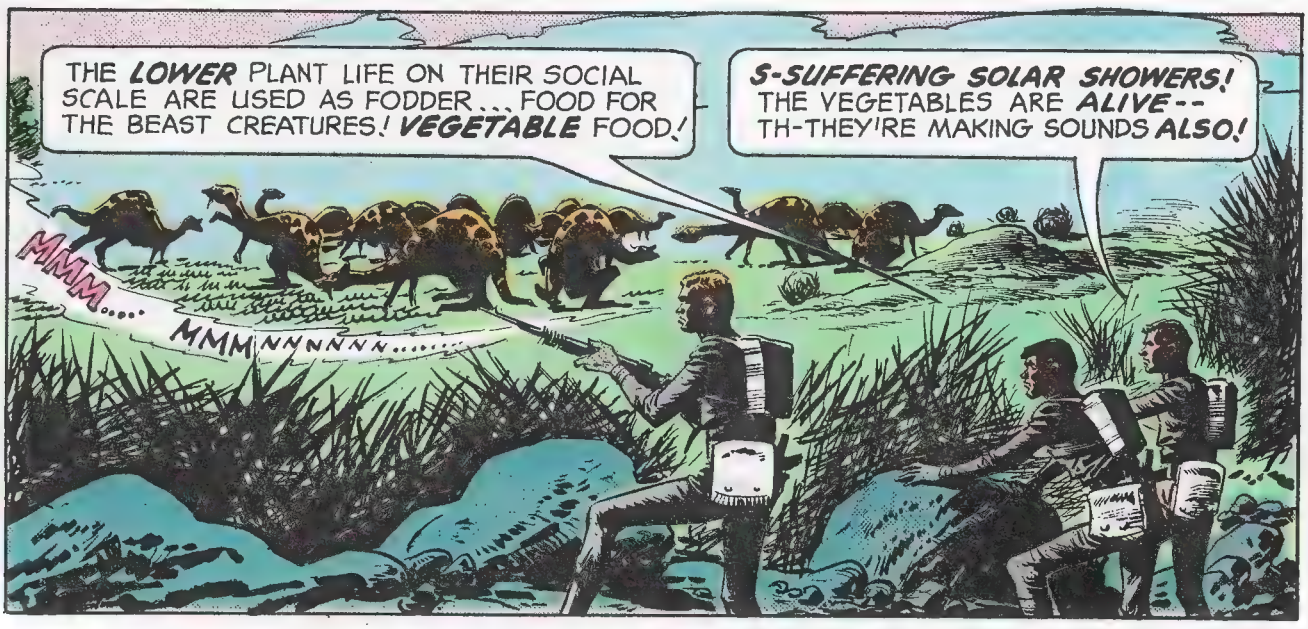
MAYBE THERE'S A BREAK IN THE THORN FENCE... AN ENTRANCE OF SOME KIND THAT WE CAN GET THROUGH!

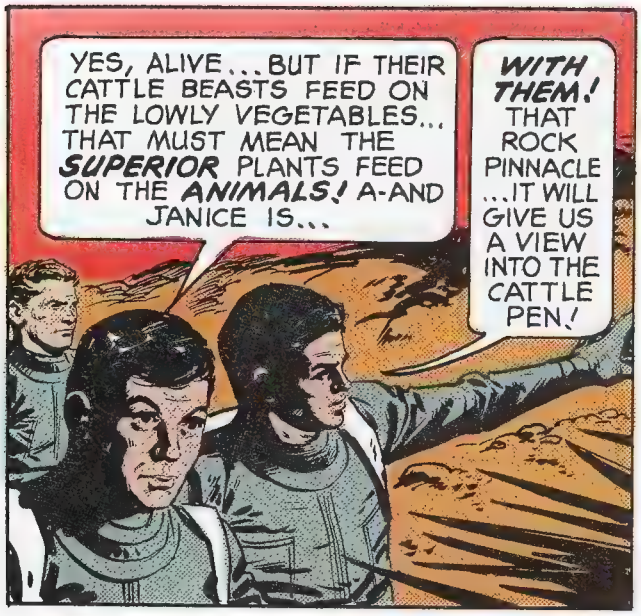
SUDDENLY...
H-HOLD UP!

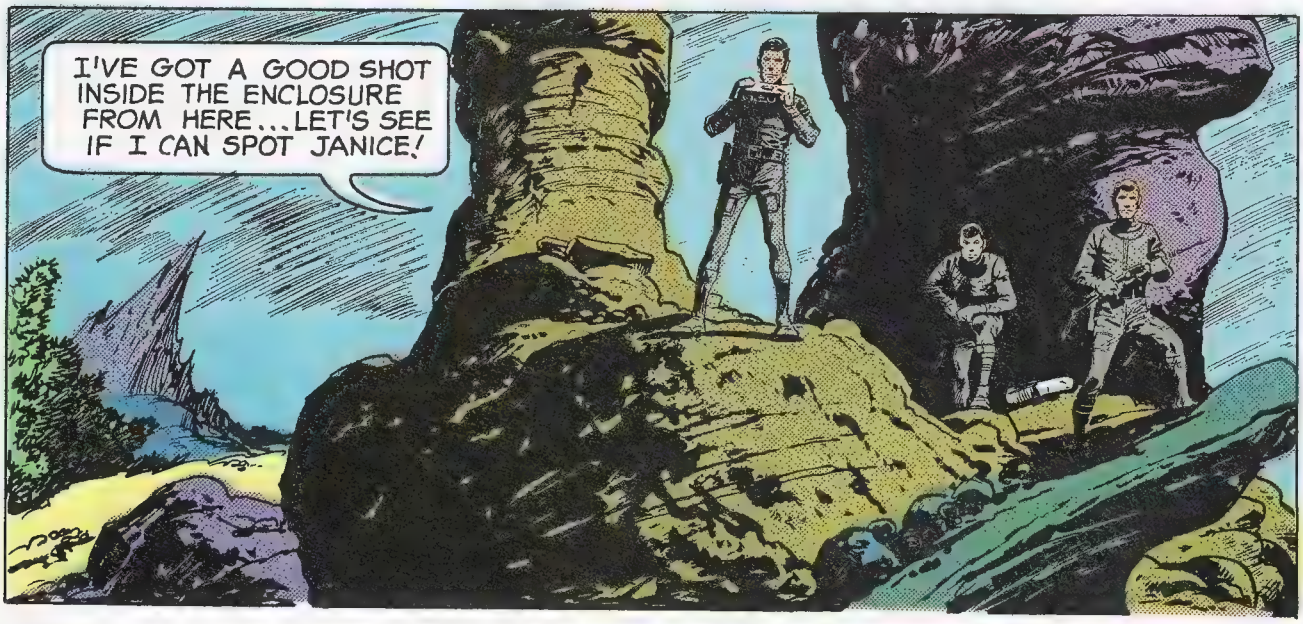

THE BEAST CREATURES... ON GRAZING GROUNDS... LIKE CATTLE!
AND THOSE ROLLING TUMBLEWEED-TYPE PLANTS... WH-WHY, THEY'RE ACTING AS SHEEP DOGS!

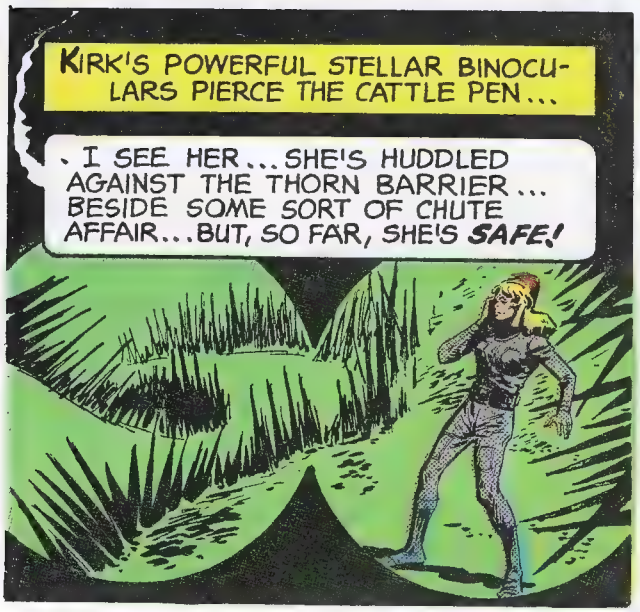

SISSSS
SISSSS
LOOK AT THAT! THE ROLLING PLANTS ARE MAKING SOUNDS... HERDING THE BEASTS LIKE COW-HANDS WITH CATTLE!
YES... BUT WHERE ARE THEY HERDING THEM? AND WHY?

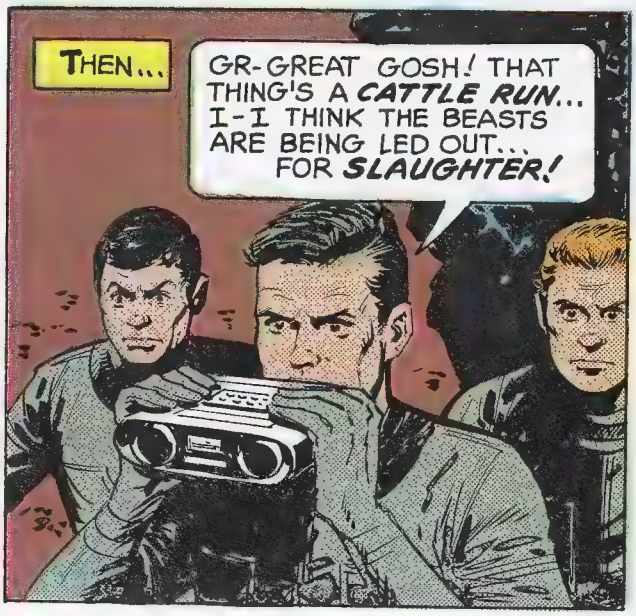

THEN...
WH-WHY, IT LOOKS LIKE A FARMLAND DOWN THERE... ROWS OF SYSTEMATICALLY-GROWING VEGETABLE-TYPE PLANTS!
OF COURSE! THAT COULD BE THE ONLY ANSWER TO A PLANT CIVILIZATION...


THE LOWER PLANT LIFE ON THEIR SOCIAL SCALE ARE USED AS FODDER... FOOD FOR THE BEAST CREATURES! VEGETABLE FOOD!
S-SUFFERING SOLAR SHOWERS! THE VEGETABLES ARE ALIVE-- TH-THEY'RE MAKING SOUNDS ALSO!
MMM.....
MMMNNNNNN.....


YES, ALIVE...BUT IF THEIR CATTLE BEASTS FEED ON THE LOWLY VEGETABLES... THAT MUST MEAN THE SUPERIOR PLANTS FEED ON THE ANIMALS! A-AND JANICE IS...
WITH THEM! THAT ROCK PINNACLE ...IT WILL GIVE US A VIEW INTO THE CATTLE PEN!


I'VE GOT A GOOD SHOT INSIDE THE ENCLOSURE FROM HERE...LET'S SEE IF I CAN SPOT JANICE!

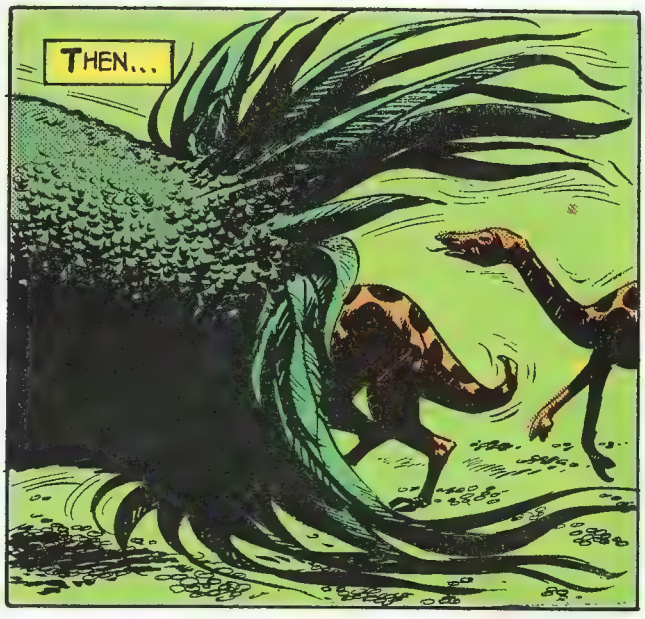

KIRK'S POWERFUL STELLAR BINOCULARS PIERCE THE CATTLE PEN...
I SEE HER...SHE'S HUDDLED AGAINST THE THORN BARRIER... BESIDE SOME SORT OF CHUTE AFFAIR...BUT, SO FAR, SHE'S SAFE!

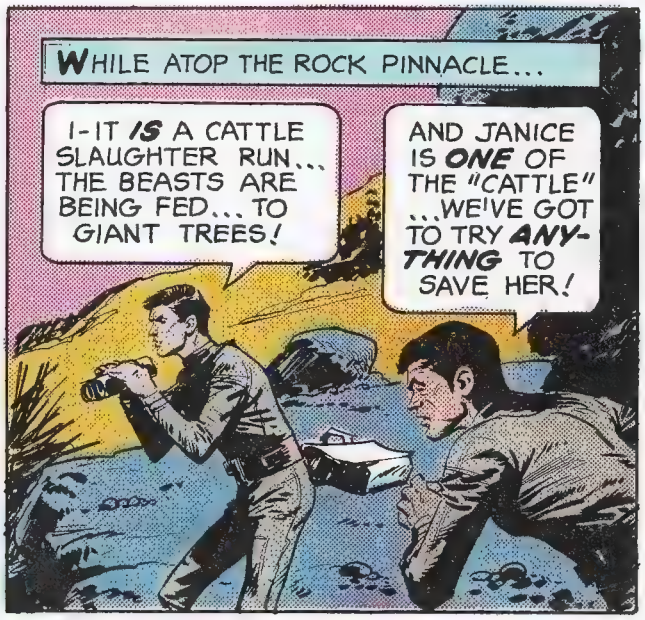

THEN...
GR-GREAT GOSH! THAT THING'S A CATTLE RUN... I-I THINK THE BEASTS ARE BEING LED OUT... FOR SLAUGHTER!

A GROUP OF THEM ARE BEING LED OUT NOW! I-I'LL SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM!

AND AS CAPTAIN KIRK OBSERVES FROM AFAR THROUGH THE BINOCULARS...
WOOO
ZIIIII...
ZIIIII

SLOWLY, THE GIANT TREES LOWER THEIR MASSIVE FOLIAGE CLUMPS...


THEN...


WHILE ATOP THE ROCK PINNACLE...
I-IT IS A CATTLE SLAUGHTER RUN... THE BEASTS ARE BEING FED... TO GIANT TREES!
AND JANICE IS ONE OF THE "CATTLE" ...WE'VE GOT TO TRY ANY-THING TO SAVE HER!

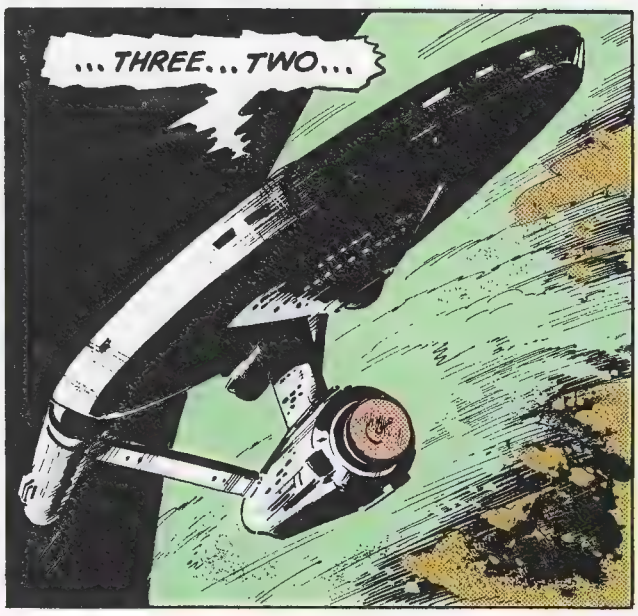
NO, WAIT! IT WON'T WORK, DOCTOR! WE'LL JUST DESTROY OURSELVES ON THOSE THORN GUARDS AND SACRIFICE JANICE ALSO!
ONLY MR. SPOCK ON THE ENTERPRISE CAN HELP JANICE NOW!
A FEW SECONDS LATER ON THE ENTERPRISE...
YOU WANT A LASER BEAM DESTRUCT RAY PIN-POINTED FOR AREA OF TEN YARDS, BUT THAT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE, CAPTAIN KIRK!
IT'S GOT TO BE POSSIBLE, MR. SPOCK!
IF THE BEAM MISSES BY EVEN A FOOT IT CAN INCINERATE JANICE, AS WELL AS THE THORN GUARD FENCE! OUR BLAST GUNS AREN'T STRONG ENOUGH FOR THE JOB!
I SEE...
THEN IT IS A LIFE-AND-DEATH SHOT THAT MUST BE TAKEN! ALL RIGHT... SEND ME EXACT READINGS! IF YOU ARE A FRACTION OF AN INCH OFF WE WILL FAIL!
U.S.S. ENTERPRISE
NCC-1701

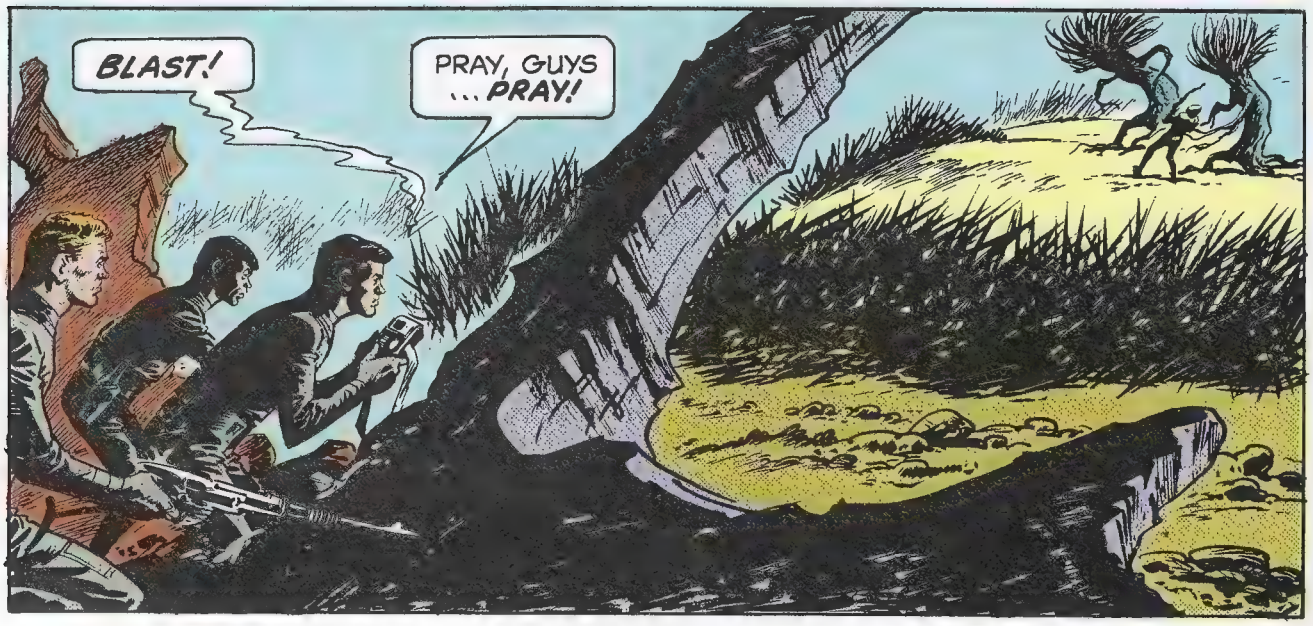
CELESTIAL LONGITUDE 2.118... LATITUDE, 145.9...
THORN GUARD FENCE PRECISELY TEN FEET...SIX AND ONE HALF INCHES DEEP...
FENCE TEN FEET...SIX...ONE-HALF INCHES! WE WILL BE AT THE POINT OF BLAST IN THREE MINUTES!
DESPERATELY, THE TRIO RACES TOWARD THE LASER BEAM TARGET...
BUT DON'T WAIT FOR US, MR. SPOCK...THEY MAY BE TAKING JANICE NOW!
I WILL NOT WAIT, CAPTAIN KIRK...
...BUT I WILL NEED PRECIOUS SECONDS TO COMPUTE THE ENTERPRISE'S PRECISE POSITION RELATIVE TO TARGET!
WHIRRR.
CLICK!
CLICK!
AND MEANWHILE, WITHIN THE CATTLE ENCLOSURE...
TH-THEY THINK I'M ONE OF THEIR CATTLE BEASTS...GOT TO HOLD THEM OFF...THE MEN ARE TRYING TO HELP ME... TH-THEY MUST BE!
ZIIIIII
ZIIIII

PRECIOUS MINUTES LATER, AS THE TRIO REACHES "GROUND ZERO"...
(PUFF PUFF) TH-THERE IT IS... THE CHUTE EXIT! — SPOCK'S BLAST SHOULD BURN A HOLE FIVE YARDS LONG IN IT...
IF ALL GOES WELL...

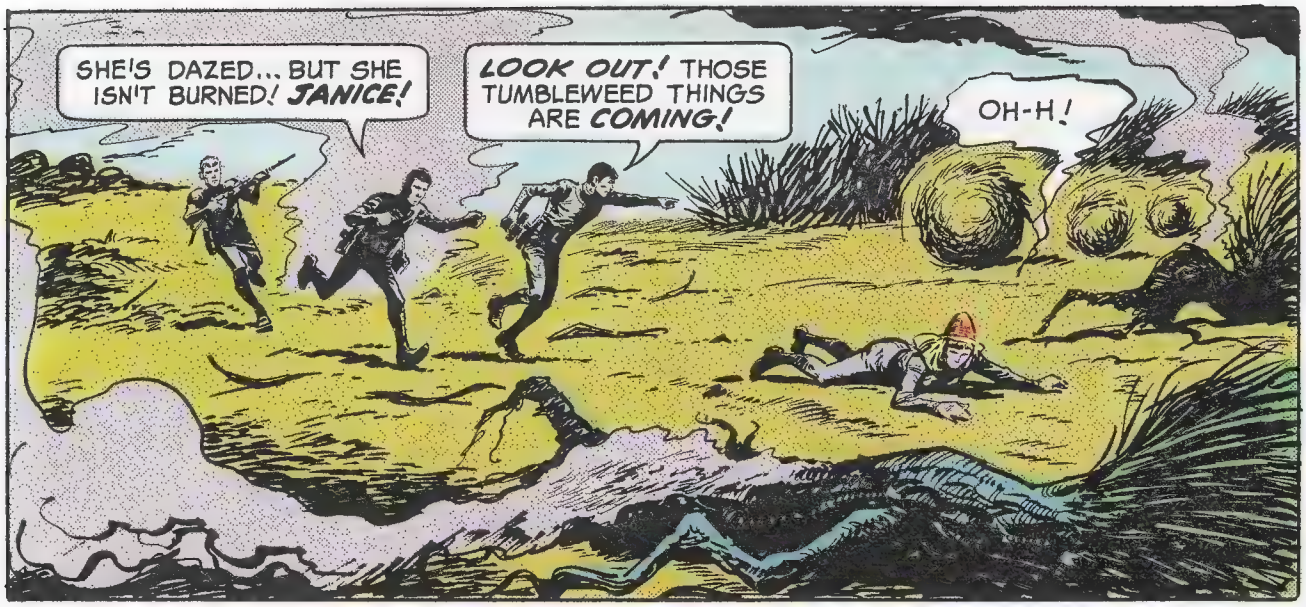
... BUT IF THE "SHEEPDOG" VINES LEAD JANICE OUT BEFORE HE TRIGGERS IT... WE'RE SUNK! — TO STOP THEM HE'LL HAVE TO HIT JANICE ALSO!

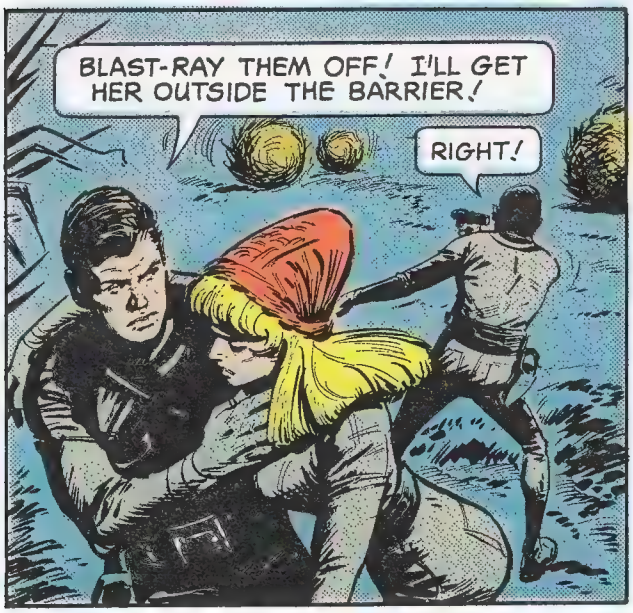
THEN...
TABULATIONS COMPLETE! BLAST BEAM IN FIVE SECONDS... FIVE... FOUR...


... THREE... TWO...

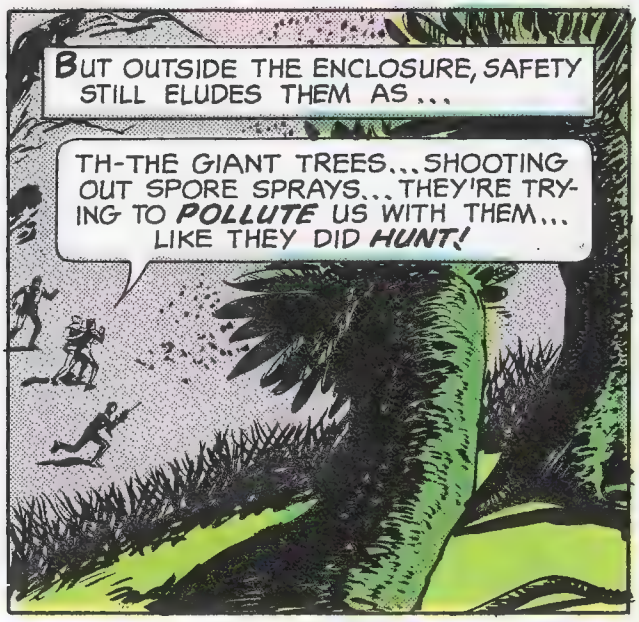

BLAST!
PRAY, GUYS ... PRAY!

INSTANTLY, AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT, A BEAM OF SEARING, PENETRATING LIGHT STREAKS DOWN FROM SPACE! IN AN INFERNO OF ANGUISHED PLANT CRIES, THE THORN FENCE IS VAPORIZED... BUT...
ZAP!
PUFF!
ARRROOO!
ZIIIIKES.....
ROOOOO!
ON TARGET! B-BUT IS JANICE SAFE?
HURRY! THE OTHER CANNIBAL PLANTS ARE ALIVE... WE'VE GOT TO REACH HER FIRST!

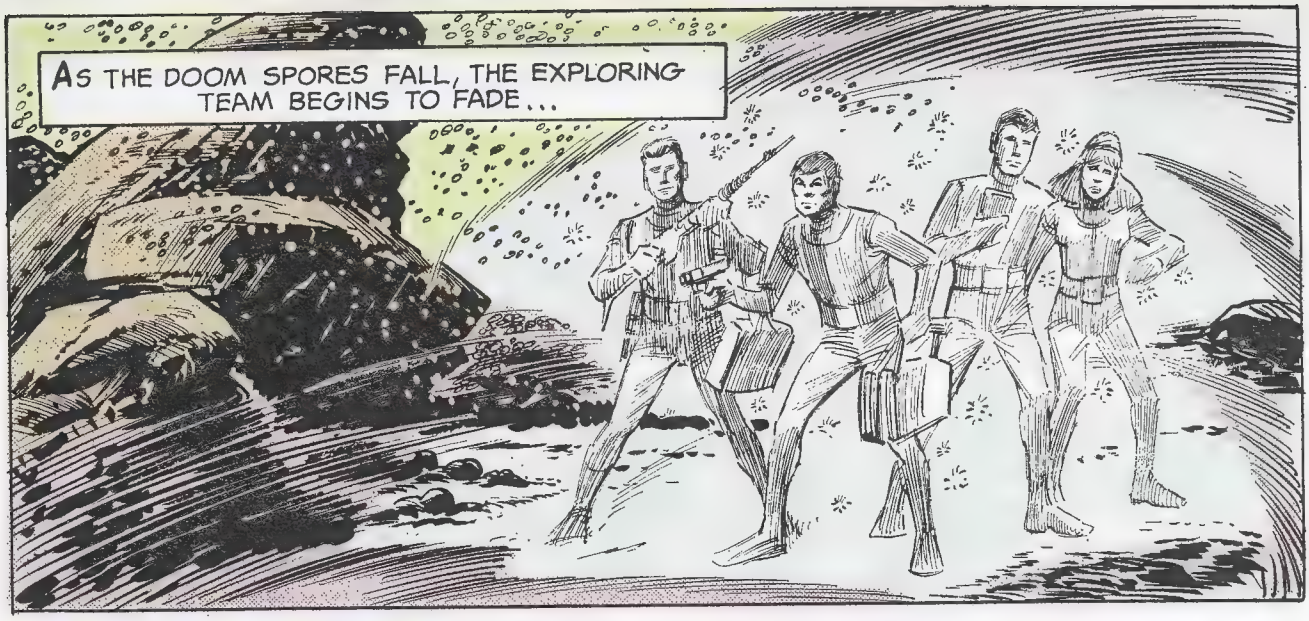

SHE'S DAZED... BUT SHE ISN'T BURNED! JANICE!
LOOK OUT! THOSE TUMBLEWEED THINGS ARE COMING!
OH-H!


BLAST-RAY THEM OFF! I'LL GET HER OUTSIDE THE BARRIER!
RIGHT!

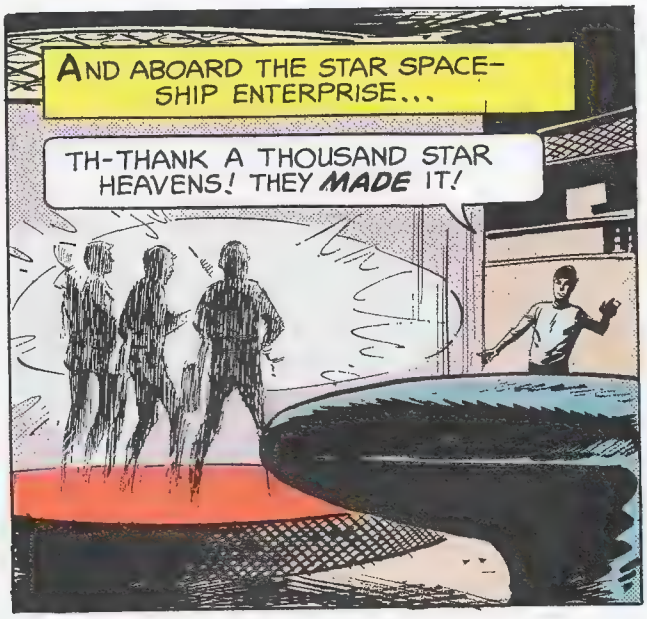
ZAP!
Wooo!
Wooooo!
ZAAAP!


BUT OUTSIDE THE ENCLOSURE, SAFETY STILL ELUDES THEM AS...
TH-THE GIANT TREES... SHOOTING OUT SPORE SPRAYS... THEY'RE TRYING TO POLLUTE US WITH THEM... LIKE THEY DID HUNT!

WE HAVE HER SAFE! MATERIALIZE US ABOARD AT ONCE, MR. SPOCK! GIANT TREES ARE TRYING TO GERMINATE US! HURRY! HURRY!

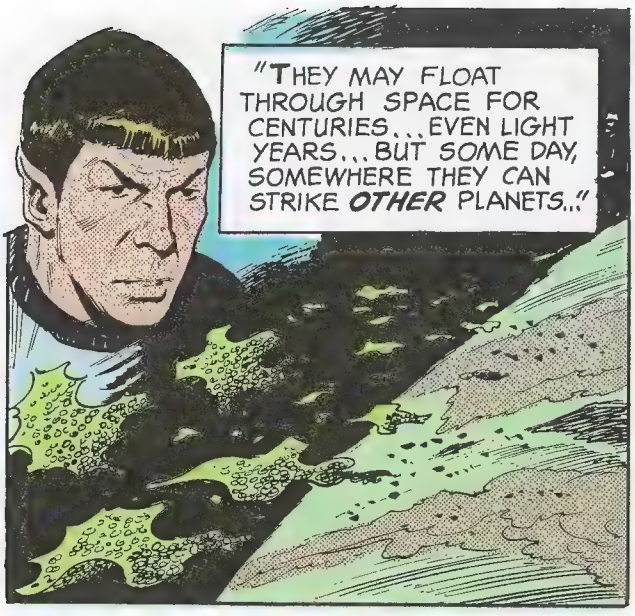

AS THE DOOM SPORES FALL, THE EXPLORING TEAM BEGINS TO FADE...

THEN...
OROOO OROOO!


AND ABOARD THE STAR SPACE-SHIP ENTERPRISE...
TH-THANK A THOUSAND STAR HEAVENS! THEY MADE IT!

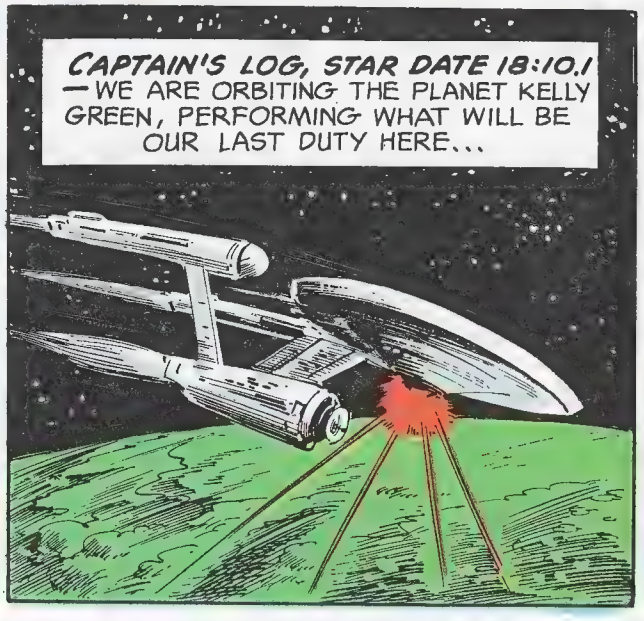
OH, MR. SPOCK...LET'S GET AWAY FROM THIS DREADFUL PLANET AT ONCE, PLEASE!
YES! I SECOND THAT MOTION! (WHEW-W!)
NO!

IT CAN NOT BE DONE—YET! I HAVE CHARTED WHAT CAN HAPPEN IF THOSE GIANT TREES CONTINUE TO EMIT SPORES THROUGH THE UNIVERSE!


"THEY MAY FLOAT THROUGH SPACE FOR CENTURIES...EVEN LIGHT YEARS...BUT SOME DAY, SOMEWHERE THEY CAN STRIKE OTHER PLANETS..."

WHEN THEY DO, THAT VICTIM PLANET WILL ALSO BECOME A K-G.., WITH KILLER, CANNIBAL PLANTS DEVOURING FOR FOOD ALL LIFE UPON IT!
BUT...WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

WE MUST ORBIT THAT HIDEOUS LITTLE GLOBE UNTIL ALL FOLIAGE UPON IT IS DECIMATED BY OUR LASER BEAMS! I HAVE SET COURSE FOR THE MISSION ALREADY!


CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE 18:10.1 —WE ARE ORBITING THE PLANET KELLY GREEN, PERFORMING WHAT WILL BE OUR LAST DUTY HERE...

TOTAL DESTRUCTION— A MISSION THAT MUST BE FULFILLED BEFORE WE CAN CONTINUE OUR TOUR OF RESEARCH THROUGH THE VAST REACHES OF THE UNIVERSE...

STAR FACTS!

There is a Hasselblad camera orbiting the earth. It was dropped by Michael Collins, an American astronaut, when he was walking in space from Gemini-10.

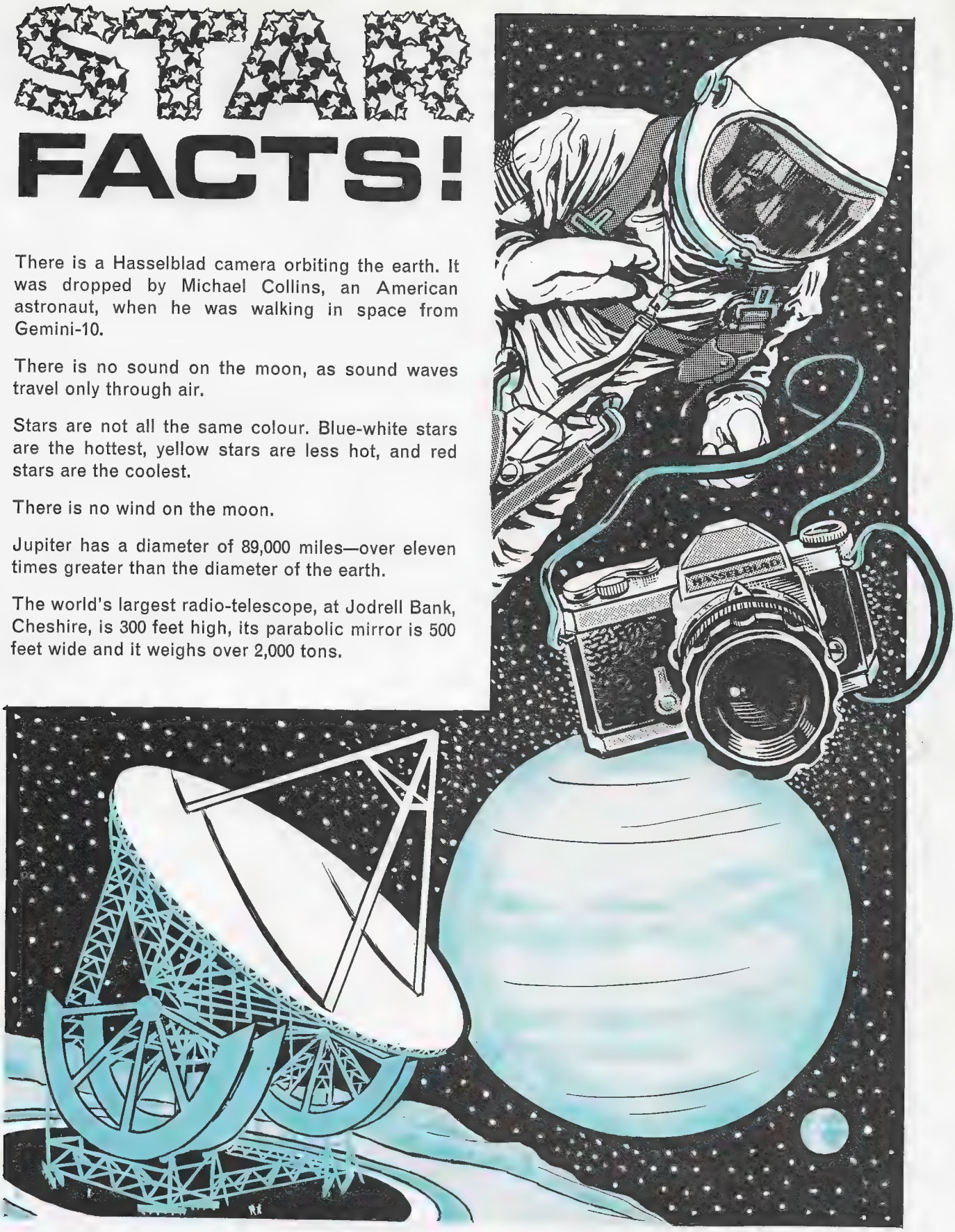
There is no sound on the moon, as sound waves travel only through air.

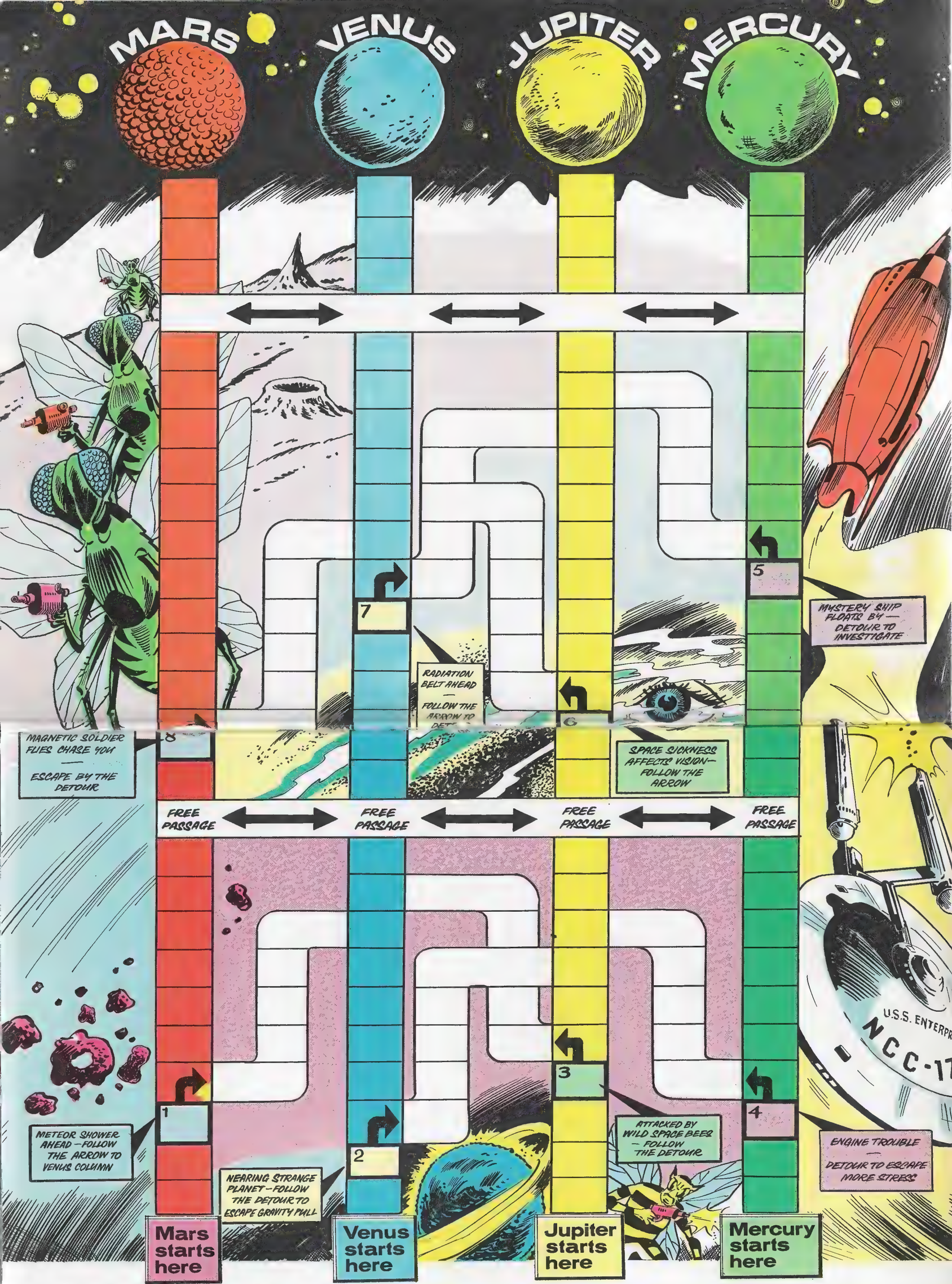
Stars are not all the same colour. Blue-white stars are the hottest, yellow stars are less hot, and red stars are the coolest.

There is no wind on the moon.

Jupiter has a diameter of 89,000 miles—over eleven times greater than the diameter of the earth.

The world's largest radio-telescope, at Jodrell Bank, Cheshire, is 300 feet high, its parabolic mirror is 500 feet wide and it weighs over 2,000 tons.





SPACE RACE

A Game for 2, 3 or 4 players

MISSION to reach the planet ahead, before your competitors reach their corresponding planets.

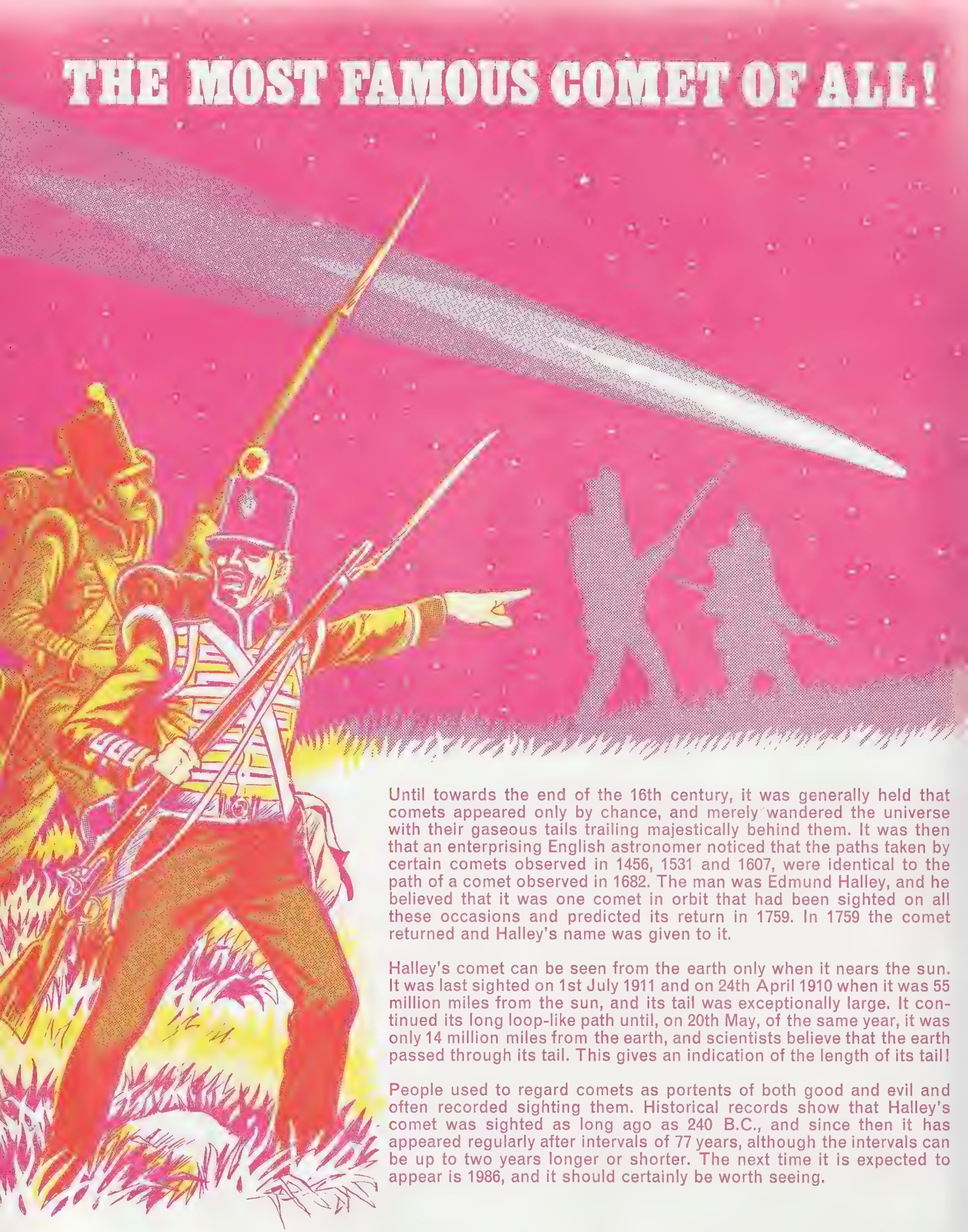
EQUIPMENT One dice, and a counter for each player.

INSTRUCTIONS Throw a six to begin on the first square. Follow the instructions written on the squares you land on.

Landing on a "Free Passage" square enables you to transfer to another column without missing a turn.

If you arrive at the wrong planet you must begin again in your original lane.

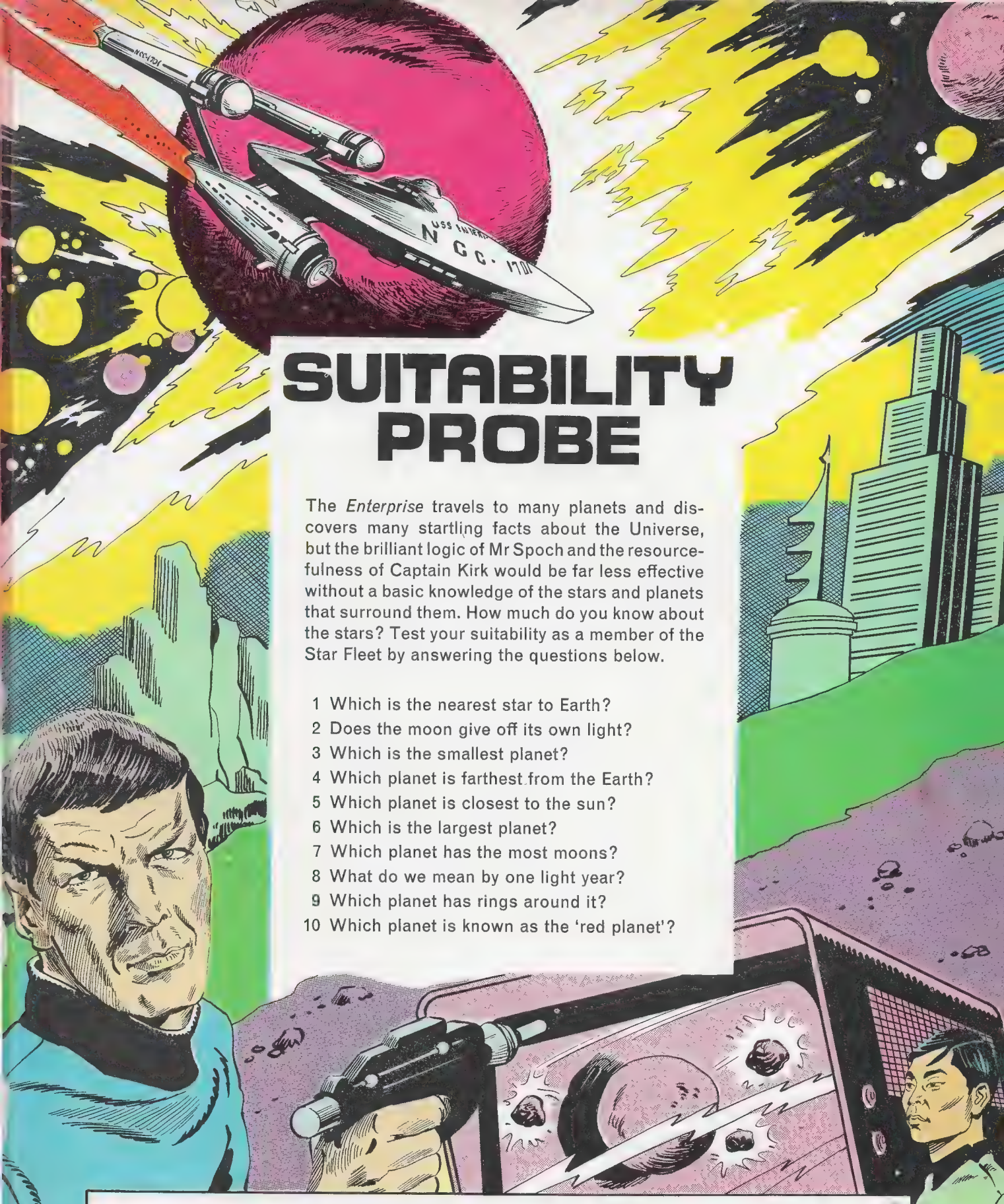
THE MOST FAMOUS COMET OF ALL!



Until towards the end of the 16th century, it was generally held that comets appeared only by chance, and merely wandered the universe with their gaseous tails trailing majestically behind them. It was then that an enterprising English astronomer noticed that the paths taken by certain comets observed in 1456, 1531 and 1607, were identical to the path of a comet observed in 1682. The man was Edmund Halley, and he believed that it was one comet in orbit that had been sighted on all these occasions and predicted its return in 1759. In 1759 the comet returned and Halley's name was given to it.

Halley's comet can be seen from the earth only when it nears the sun. It was last sighted on 1st July 1911 and on 24th April 1910 when it was 55 million miles from the sun, and its tail was exceptionally large. It continued its long loop-like path until, on 20th May, of the same year, it was only 14 million miles from the earth, and scientists believe that the earth passed through its tail. This gives an indication of the length of its tail!

People used to regard comets as portents of both good and evil and often recorded sighting them. Historical records show that Halley's comet was sighted as long ago as 240 B.C., and since then it has appeared regularly after intervals of 77 years, although the intervals can be up to two years longer or shorter. The next time it is expected to appear is 1986, and it should certainly be worth seeing.



SUITABILITY PROBE

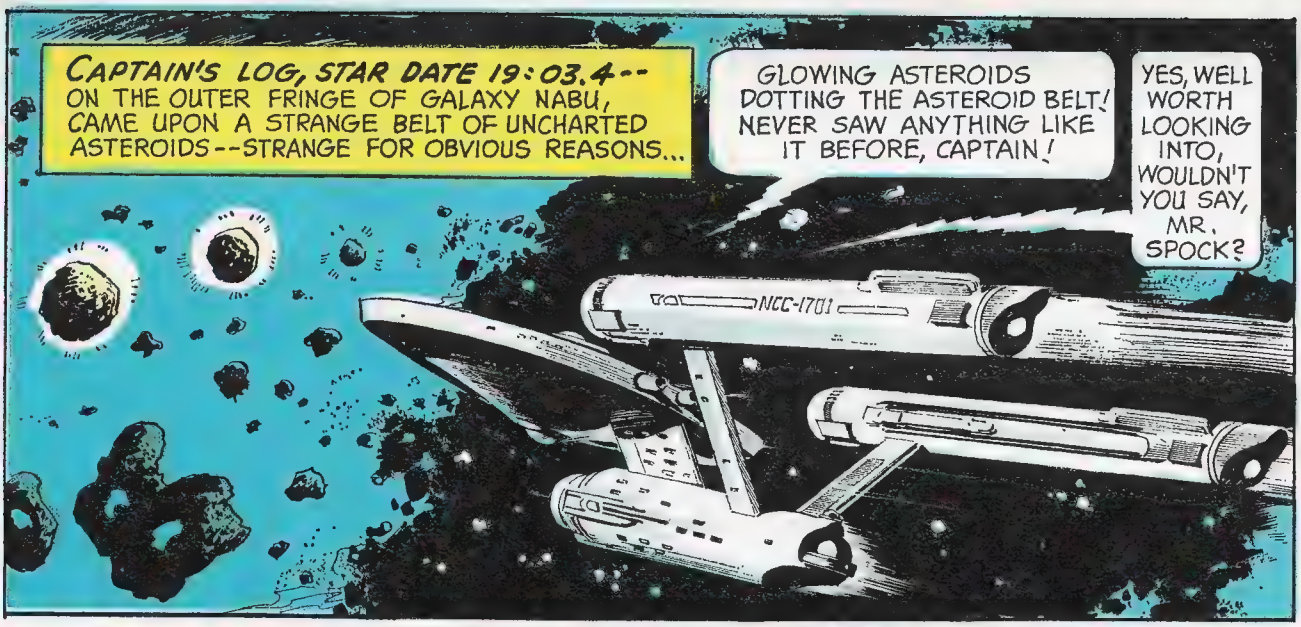
The *Enterprise* travels to many planets and discovers many startling facts about the Universe, but the brilliant logic of Mr Spoch and the resourcefulness of Captain Kirk would be far less effective without a basic knowledge of the stars and planets that surround them. How much do you know about the stars? Test your suitability as a member of the Star Fleet by answering the questions below.

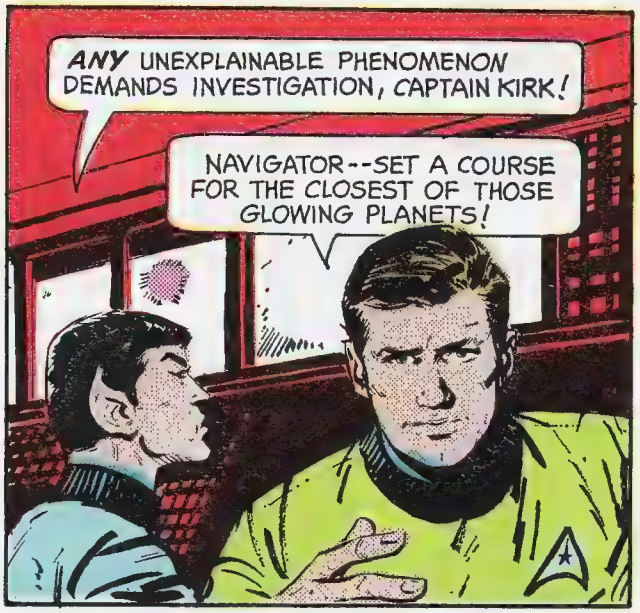
1 Which is the nearest star to Earth?
2 Does the moon give off its own light?
3 Which is the smallest planet?
4 Which planet is farthest from the Earth?
5 Which planet is closest to the sun?
6 Which is the largest planet?
7 Which planet has the most moons?
8 What do we mean by one light year?
9 Which planet has rings around it?
10 Which planet is known as the 'red planet'?

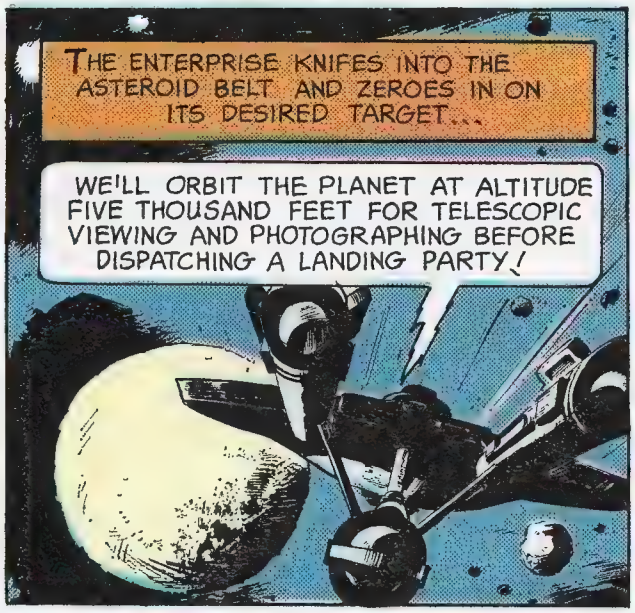
Answers:

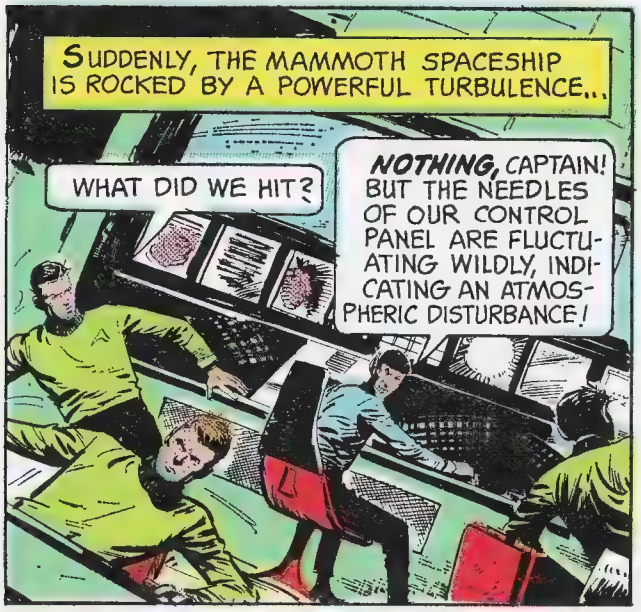
1 The sun 2 No. It reflects the sun's light 3 Mercury 4 Pluto 5 Mercury
6 Jupiter 7 Jupiter 8 The distance light travels in one year 9 Saturn
10 Mars

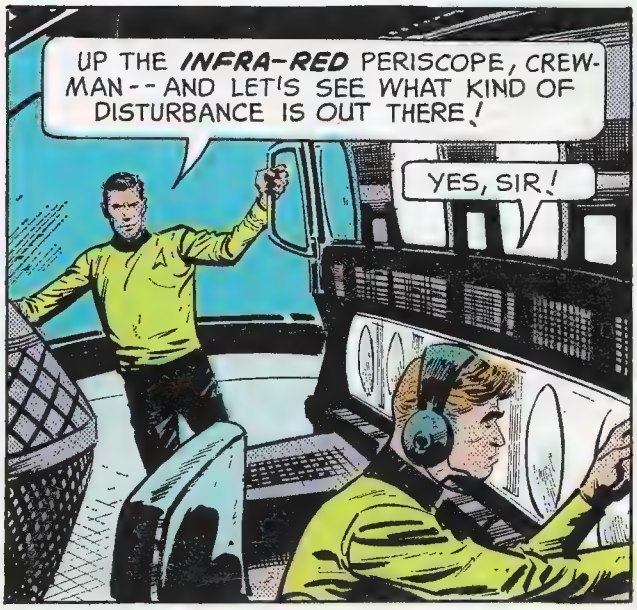
STAR TREK
The DEVIL'S ISLE OF SPACE
READY TO TELEPORT YOU AND YOUR PARTY BACK TO THE ENTERPRISE, CAPTAIN KIRK!
NO, MR. SPOCK! YOU'LL BRING BACK SOME UNDESIRABLES WITH US! IF THESE CREATURES GET ABOARD, THEY COULD DOOM THE ENTERPRISE!
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FIGHT OUR WAY OUT OF THIS SPOT!
MR. SPOCK WAS POWERLESS TO HELP AS CAPTAIN KIRK AND HIS EXPLORATION TEAM BATTLED FOR THEIR LIVES ON A MYSTERIOUS ASTEROID. AND MR. SPOCK WOULD SOON UNCOVER THE ASTEROID'S TERRIFYING SECRET, A SECRET WHICH WOULD CHALLENGE HIM WITH AN IMPOSSIBLE CHOICE: EITHER RISK THE STAR SHIP ENTERPRISE AND ALL HER PERSONNEL, OR ABANDON HIS CAPTAIN TO CERTAIN DEATH!


CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE 19:03.4--
ON THE OUTER FRINGE OF GALAXY NABU, CAME UPON A STRANGE BELT OF UNCHARTED ASTEROIDS--STRANGE FOR OBVIOUS REASONS...
GLOWING ASTEROIDS DOTTING THE ASTEROID BELT! NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE IT BEFORE, CAPTAIN!
YES, WELL WORTH LOOKING INTO, WOULDN'T YOU SAY, MR. SPOCK?
NCC-1701


ANY UNEXPLAINABLE PHENOMENON DEMANDS INVESTIGATION, CAPTAIN KIRK!
NAVIGATOR--SET A COURSE FOR THE CLOSEST OF THOSE GLOWING PLANETS!


THE ENTERPRISE KNIFES INTO THE ASTEROID BELT AND ZEROES IN ON ITS DESIRED TARGET...
WE'LL ORBIT THE PLANET AT ALTITUDE FIVE THOUSAND FEET FOR TELESCOPIC VIEWING AND PHOTOGRAPHING BEFORE DISPATCHING A LANDING PARTY!

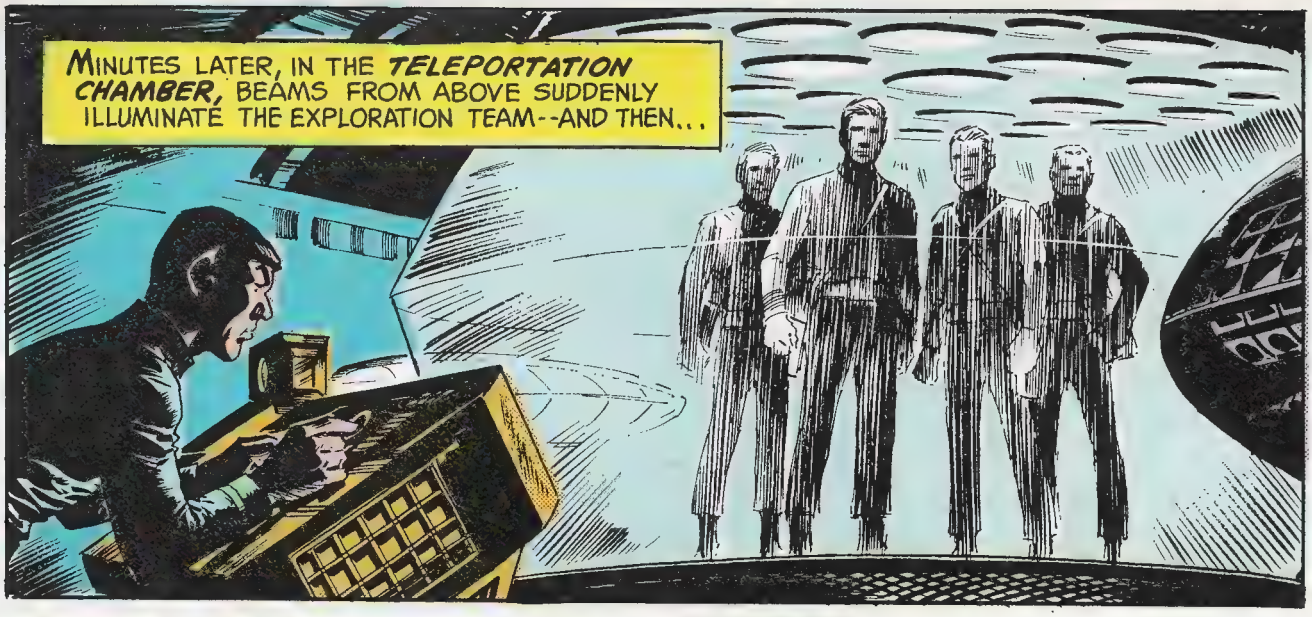

SUDDENLY, THE MAMMOTH SPACESHIP IS ROCKED BY A POWERFUL TURBULENCE...
WHAT DID WE HIT?
NOTHING, CAPTAIN! BUT THE NEEDLES OF OUR CONTROL PANEL ARE FLUCTUATING WILDLY, INDICATING AN ATMOSPHERIC DISTURBANCE!

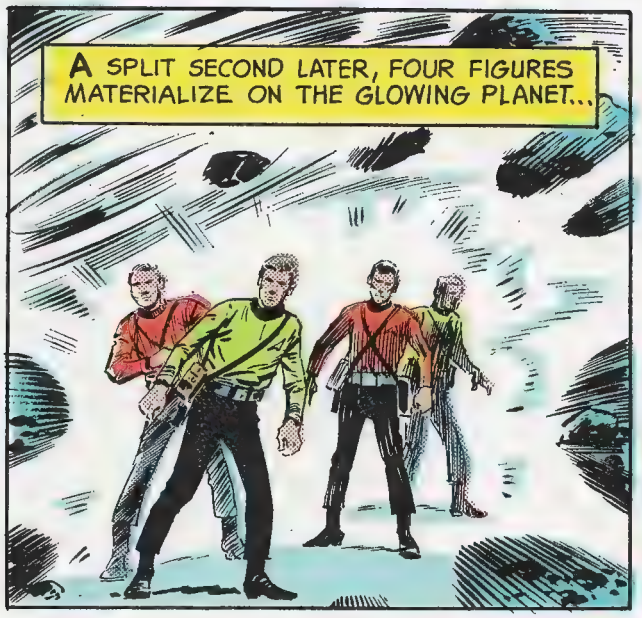

UP THE INFRA-RED PERISCOPE, CREWMAN--AND LET'S SEE WHAT KIND OF DISTURBANCE IS OUT THERE!
YES, SIR!

HOWLING COMETS! WE'VE RUN SMACK INTO A HUGE ELECTRONIC FIELD THAT SHIELDS THE ENTIRE PLANET! IT'S... TRAPPED US, MR. SPOCK!
PERHAPS UNDER FULL POWER WE CAN BREAK OUT OF ITS GRIP, CAPTAIN!
U.S.S. ENTERPRISE
NCC-1701

LIKE SOME GREAT ENSNARED BEAST, THE ENTERPRISE STRUGGLES VIOLENTLY FOR HER FREEDOM--BUT...
WE CAN'T BUDGE AN INCH! ANY SUGGESTIONS, MR. SPOCK?
IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE THE POWER SOURCE OF THIS FIELD IS ON THE PLANET *ITSELF*, CAPTAIN! IF WE DESTROY IT-

YOUR LOGIC IS UNASSAILABLE, SPOCK! WE'LL INVESTIGATE DOWN BELOW! EXPLORATION TEAM--STAND BY FOR ACTION! I'M GOING ALONG WITH YOU!

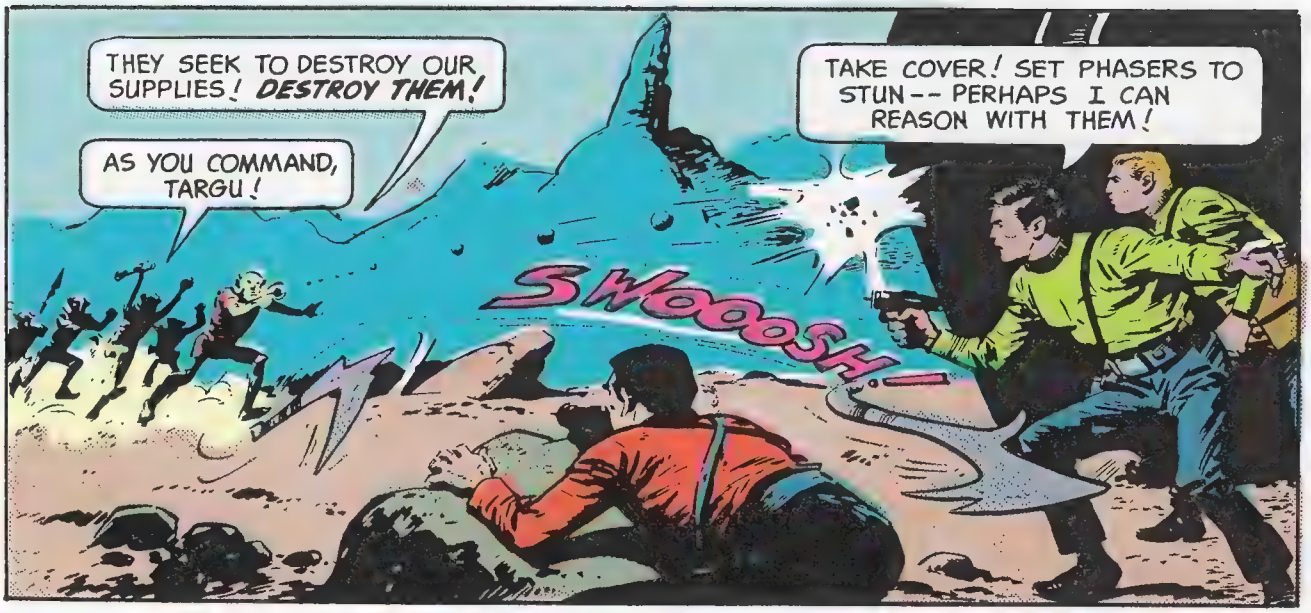

MINUTES LATER, IN THE TELEPORTATION CHAMBER, BEAMS FROM ABOVE SUDDENLY ILLUMINATE THE EXPLORATION TEAM--AND THEN...

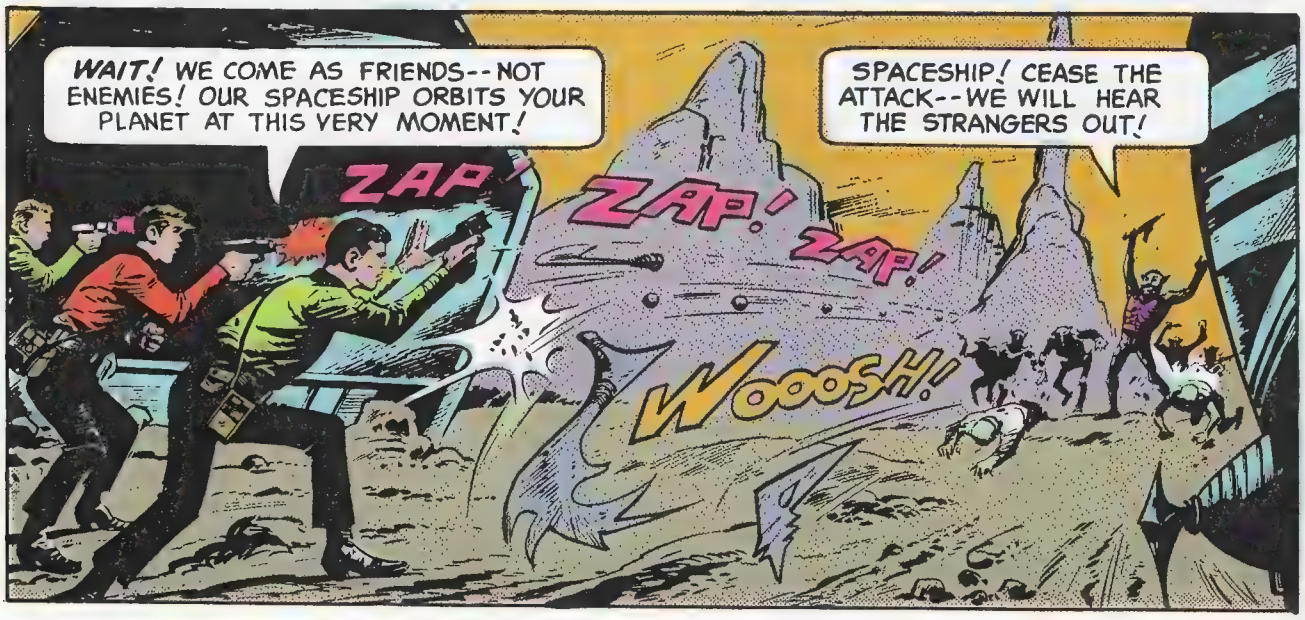

A SPLIT SECOND LATER, FOUR FIGURES MATERIALIZE ON THE GLOWING PLANET...

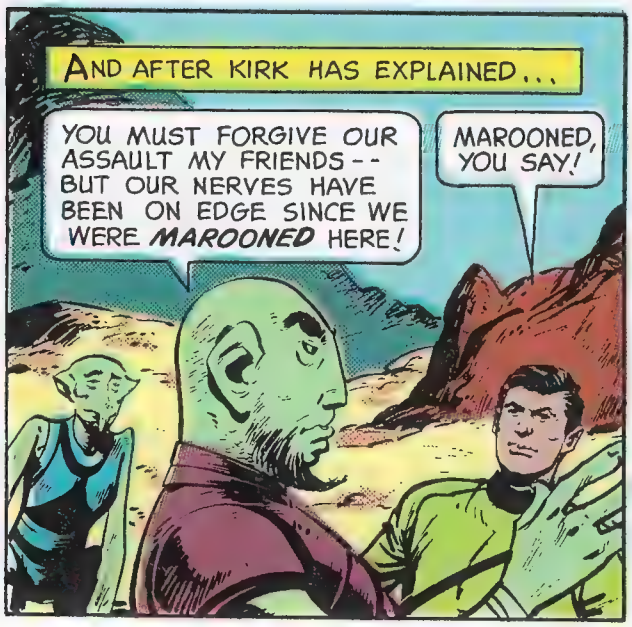
LOOK AT THOSE STRANGE MACHINES, CAPTAIN! WHAT ARE THEY? WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE?
BEATS ME, FOSTER! LET'S HAVE A CLOSER LOOK!

HEY! THIS ONE DISPENSES FOOD!
AND THESE OTHER TWO CONTAIN A SUPPLY OF WATER-- AND CLOTHING!

OBVIOUSLY, WE ARE NOT ALONE HERE, BOYS...
ATTACK! ATTACK THE INTRUDERS!

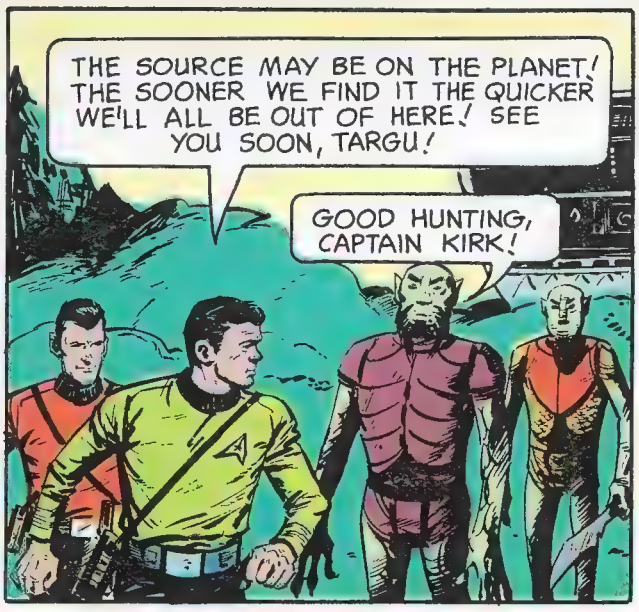

THEY SEEK TO DESTROY OUR SUPPLIES! DESTROY THEM!
AS YOU COMMAND, TARGU!
SWOOOSH!
TAKE COVER! SET PHASERS TO STUN -- PERHAPS I CAN REASON WITH THEM!

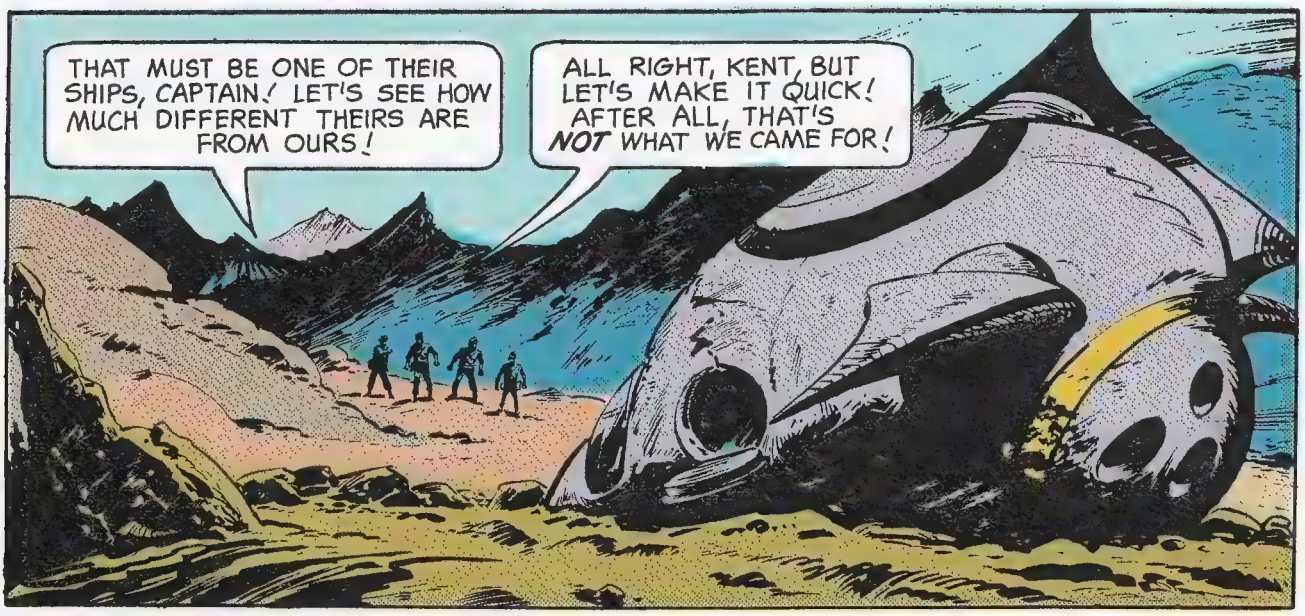

WAIT! WE COME AS FRIENDS -- NOT ENEMIES! OUR SPACESHIP ORBITS YOUR PLANET AT THIS VERY MOMENT!
ZAP
ZAP!
ZAP!
WOOOSH!
SPACESHIP! CEASE THE ATTACK -- WE WILL HEAR THE STRANGERS OUT!


AND AFTER KIRK HAS EXPLAINED...
YOU MUST FORGIVE OUR ASSAULT MY FRIENDS -- BUT OUR NERVES HAVE BEEN ON EDGE SINCE WE WERE MAROONED HERE!
MAROONED, YOU SAY!

YES, OUR FREIGHTER SPACESHIP CRASH-LANDED HERE OVER A YEAR AGO! HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE SUPPLIES ABOARD, WE SURELY WOULD HAVE PERISHED!
THEN, THAT EXPLAINS THE DISPENSERS WE SAW!

WELL, TARGU--YOU CAN ALL BE AT EASE! CONSIDER YOURSELVES RESCUED-- IF OUR SPACESHIP CAN EVER BREAK OUT OF THE ELECTRONIC FIELD TRAPPING IT!
ELECTRONIC FIELD? WE KNOW.. NOTHING ABOUT IT!


THE SOURCE MAY BE ON THE PLANET! THE SOONER WE FIND IT THE QUICKER WE'LL ALL BE OUT OF HERE! SEE YOU SOON, TARGU!
GOOD HUNTING, CAPTAIN KIRK!


THAT MUST BE ONE OF THEIR SHIPS, CAPTAIN! LET'S SEE HOW MUCH DIFFERENT THEIRS ARE FROM OURS!
ALL RIGHT, KENT, BUT LET'S MAKE IT QUICK! AFTER ALL, THAT'S *NOT* WHAT WE CAME FOR!

IT'S A SIMPLE ENOUGH CRAFT, ISN'T IT, CAPTAIN? I MEAN, HOW DO THEY *CONTROL* IT?
YES, VERY INTERESTING! LET'S RADIO A FULL DESCRIPTION TO MR. SPOCK! MAYBE HE CAN MAKE SOMETHING OF IT!

I HAVE ALL THAT INFORMATION, CAPTAIN! WE'RE RUNNING IT THROUGH THE COMPUTERS NOW! MEANWHILE WE'RE STILL WORKING ON BREAKING THE FORCE FIELD!

HERE'S THE REPORT, CAPTAIN! NO MATTER *HOW* DIFFERENT THEIR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MAY BE, ONE THING IS *SURE!* THAT'S *NO* CARGO SHIP!

THANKS, SPOCK! KIRK OUT!

BUT WHY IS TARGU LYING TO US?

RIGHT NOW THAT'S ONE OF THE MYSTERIES OF THIS PLANET! AND UNTIL WE FIND OUT, TRUST *NO ONE*-- AND BE *VIGILANT!*

NO SIGNIFICANT READINGS IN THIS SECTOR, CAPTAIN!

THEN LET'S MOVE ON!

CAPTAIN KIRK, SIR--I MUST HAVE WORDS WITH YOU!

CAREFUL, MEN, BE READY FOR ANYTHING!

WHO *IS* THAT? COME *OUT* AND *SHOW* YOURSELF!

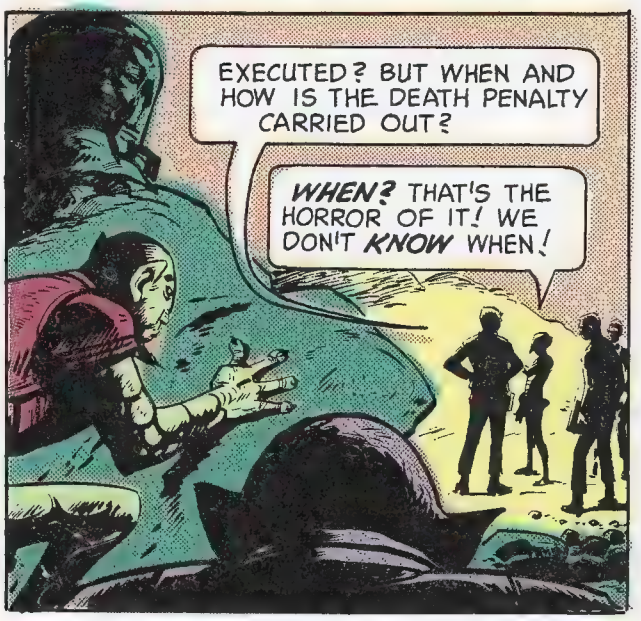
I AM LARA! I'VE COME TO WARN YOU OF TARGU! HE IS A BAD MAN AND HAS TOLD *YOU* A GREAT LIE!

AND I SUPPOSE *YOU* WANT TO TELL US THE *TRUTH!*

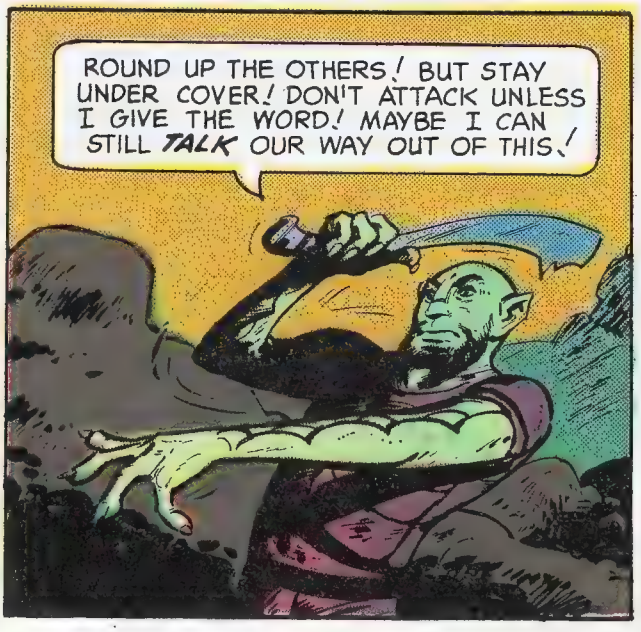
EXACTLY, CAPTAIN, BUT FIRST YOU MUST PROMISE TO PROTECT ME, TO TAKE ME WITH YOU WHEN YOU LEAVE!
I'LL PROMISE NOTHING, LARA, TILL I'VE HEARD YOUR STORY!
ALL RIGHT, I MUST TRUST YOU! I HAVE NO CHOICE! WE DID NOT CRASH-LAND HERE! WE WERE ROCKETED HERE IN ONE-WAY SPACE CRAFT! YOU SEE, WE ARE... THE CONDEMNED!
CONDEMNED? YOU MEAN YOU'RE CONVICTS? THIS PLANET IS YOUR PRISON?
EXACTLY! THE GOVERNMENT OF OUR HOME PLANET HAS DEVISED A UNIQUE PUNISHMENT FOR CRIMINALS!
"ONCE EACH MONTH THEY HERD ALL THOSE CONVICTED OF CRIMES TO THE ROCKETPORT WHERE THEY ARE PLACED IN MISSILES..."
"THEN, WE ARE LAUNCHED TO ONE OF THE GLOWING PLANETS OF THIS ASTEROID BELT..."

"FOOD, WATER AND OTHER NECESSITIES ARE SUPPLIED TO US THROUGH AUTOMATIC MACHINES WHICH YOU HAVE ALREADY SEEN. SO WE SURVIVE UNTIL THE SENTENCE IS CARRIED OUT..."

SOUNDS LIKE A PRETTY PROGRESSIVE PENAL SYSTEM! HOW LONG MUST YOU REMAIN HERE?
PROGRESSIVE? IT'S SADISTIC! I TOLD YOU, CAPTAIN, WE ARE CONDEMNED! WE ARE HERE AWAITING EXECUTION!


EXECUTED? BUT WHEN AND HOW IS THE DEATH PENALTY CARRIED OUT?
WHEN? THAT'S THE HORROR OF IT! WE DON'T KNOW WHEN!

LOOK AT THAT WEASEL, LARA! TRYING TO SAVE HIS MISERABLE NECK, I'LL BET!
YEAH, BY RUINING OUR CHANCE TO ESCAPE!

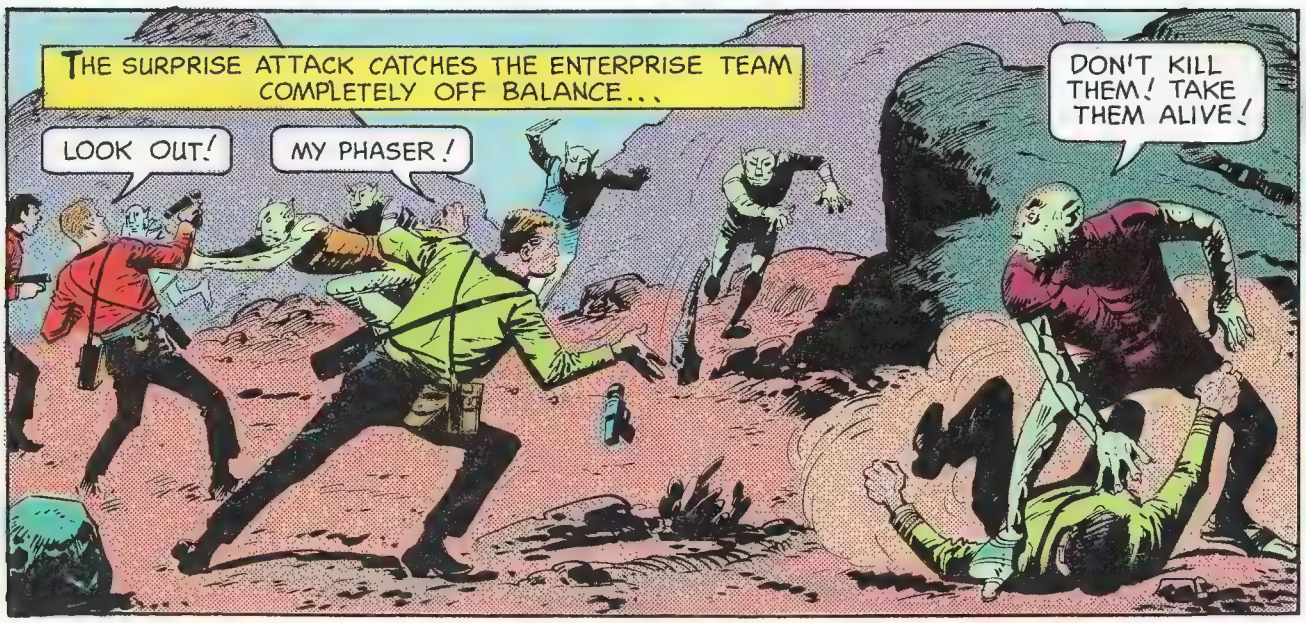

ROUND UP THE OTHERS! BUT STAY UNDER COVER! DON'T ATTACK UNLESS I GIVE THE WORD! MAYBE I CAN STILL TALK OUR WAY OUT OF THIS!

WE DON'T KNOW IF WE HAVE A WEEK -- OR A YEAR! THE METHOD IS SIMPLICITY ITSEL---
OHHHHH!
THUNG!

SORRY TO STARTLE YOU! BUT LARA IS DANGEROUS! OUR LONG STAY HERE ON THIS BARREN PLANET HAS TWISTED HIS MIND AND MADE A MADMAN OF HIM!

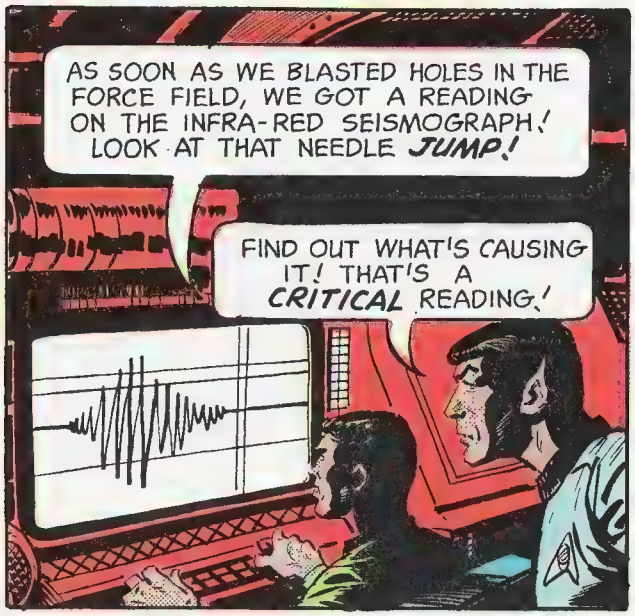
HE SOUNDED MIGHTY SANE TO ME! BUT I'M WILLING TO HEAR YOUR SIDE OF IT, TARGU!
AND SO YOU SHALL, CAPTAIN! BUT IN MY OWN--

--WAY!
NOW! ATTACK!
OOOFF!


THE SURPRISE ATTACK CATCHES THE ENTERPRISE TEAM COMPLETELY OFF BALANCE...
LOOK OUT!
MY PHASER!
DON'T KILL THEM! TAKE THEM ALIVE!

I GET IT NOW, TARGU... YOU'RE THE BULLY OF THIS PLANETARY PRISON... YOU AND YOUR BUNCH OF HENCHMEN!
CAPTAIN! OUR PHASERS!-
TOO LATE! FORGET THEM! OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO GET AWAY LONG ENOUGH FOR THE SHIP TO BEAM US ABOARD!
OWWWW!
WHILE ABOARD THE ENTERPRISE...
I THINK WE'VE GOT IT... A MEANS TO SHORT-CIRCUIT THE FORCE FIELD AND BREAK CLEAR! KEEP YOUR FINGERS CROSSED, SCOTTY!
AND AS SPOCK RELEASES A FLOOD OF ENERGY FROM THE ENTERPRISE...
I'M FLOODING THE AREA WITH COUNTER ENERGY! ADMINISTER FULL POWER TO THE ENGINES!
USS NCC
FOR A MOMENT, THE MIGHTY SPACE VESSEL SHUDDERS AS HER ROCKETS BLAST ON FULL... THEN...
WE'VE DONE IT! OUR COUNTER ENERGY IS CUTTING A HOLE THROUGH THE FORCE FIELD! WE'RE FREE!

SEE IF YOU CAN REACH THE CAPTAIN, LIEUTENANT! THERE'S NO FURTHER NEED FOR HIM TO STAY BELOW!
MR. SPOCK! COME HERE QUICKLY! LOOK AT THIS!


AS SOON AS WE BLASTED HOLES IN THE FORCE FIELD, WE GOT A READING ON THE INFRA-RED SEISMOGRAPH! LOOK AT THAT NEEDLE JUMP!
FIND OUT WHAT'S CAUSING IT! THAT'S A CRITICAL READING!

KIRK TO ENTERPRISE! DO YOU READ ME?
LOUD AND CLEAR, CAPTAIN! WE'VE BROKEN THROUGH THE ELECTRONIC TRAP! WE'RE THROUGH!

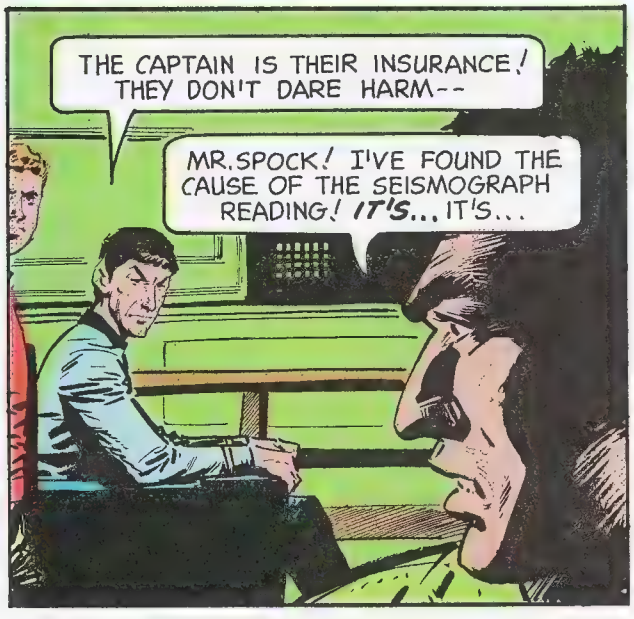
AND CAPTAIN, WE'RE GETTING A CRITICAL READING ON THE SEISMOGRAPH! DO YOU FEEL TREMORS DOWN THERE?
NEVER MIND THAT NOW! BEAM US ABOARD-- IMMEDIATELY!

STAND BY TO BEAM EXPLORATION PARTY ABOARD, ON MY COMMAND! READY...

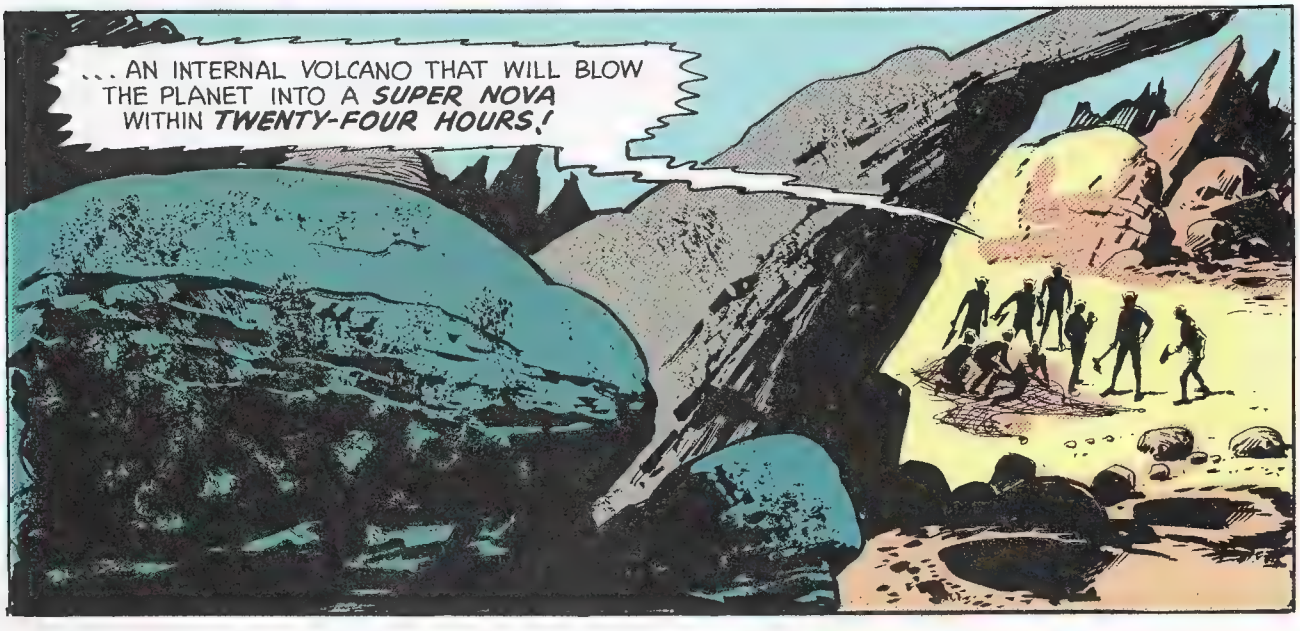
AND AT THIS MOMENT...
ON MY COMMAND, HURL THE TRAP NET! READY...
HURL! AND POUNCE ON THEM BEFORE THEY CAN GET FREE!
READY TO TELEPORT PARTY ABOARD, MR. SPOCK!
MR. SPOCK! STOP! DO NOT BEAM US UP!
CAPTAIN! WHY DID YOU STOP US?
BECAUSE, SPOCK, YOU WOULD ALSO HAVE TAKEN ABOARD SOME UNWELCOME VISITORS!
CAPTAIN, YOU ARE OUR PRISONERS NOW! SO IF YOU'RE GOING BACK ABOARD THE SHIP, YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE US WITH YOU!

YOU AND YOUR MURDEROUS HENCHMEN ABOARD THE ENTERPRISE, TARGU? NEVER! WE'RE A FULLY EQUIPPED FIGHTING SPACESHIP! YOU CAN'T HOLD US FOREVER!
WE CAN TRY!

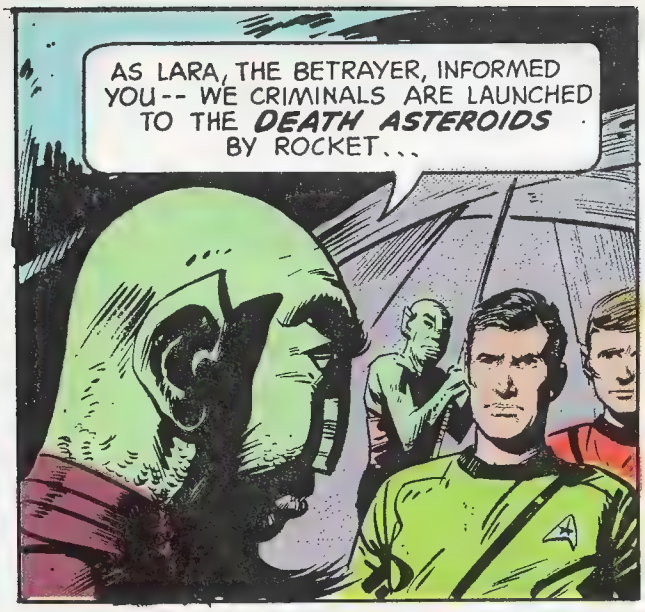
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, MR. SPOCK?
ONE THING WE WON'T DO IS PANIC! A LITTLE LOGIC WILL SOLVE THIS PROBLEM! LET'S CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITIES!

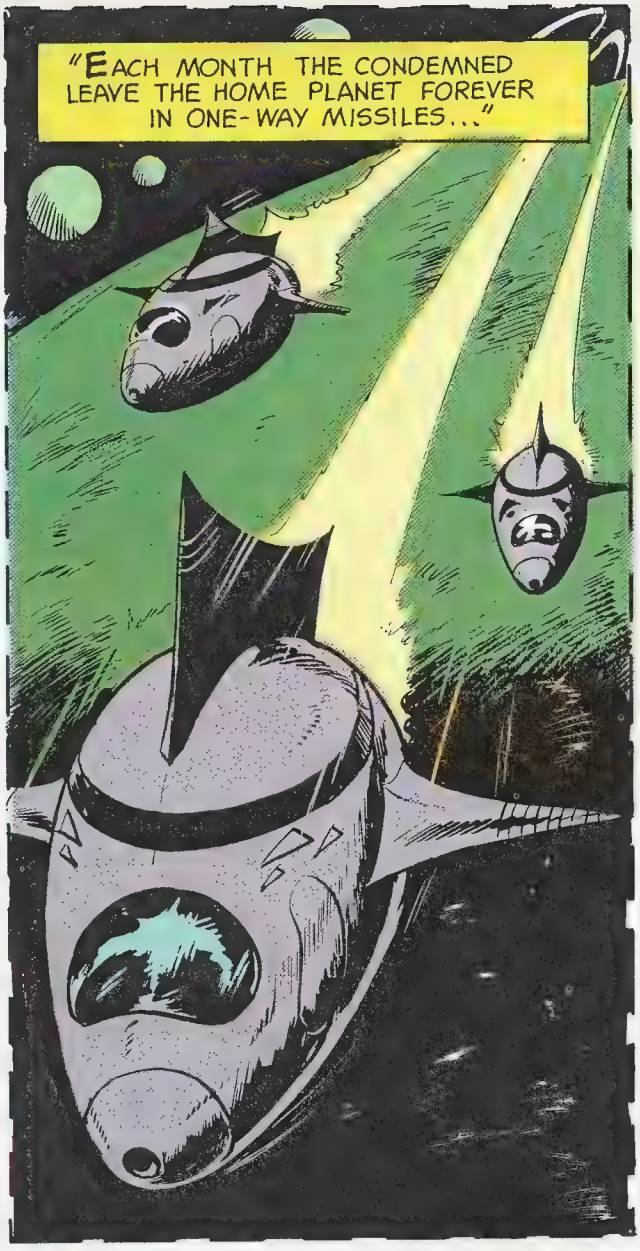

THE CAPTAIN IS THEIR INSURANCE! THEY DON'T DARE HARM--
MR. SPOCK! I'VE FOUND THE CAUSE OF THE SEISMOGRAPH READING! IT'S... IT'S...

AND IT IS THEN THAT MR. SPOCK SENDS THROUGH A SHOCKING REPORT FROM THE ENTERPRISE...
CAPTAIN KIRK! I-I'VE FOUND THE PROBLEM ON YOUR PRISON PLANET! ITS HEART IS A MOLTEN BALL OF FIRE!

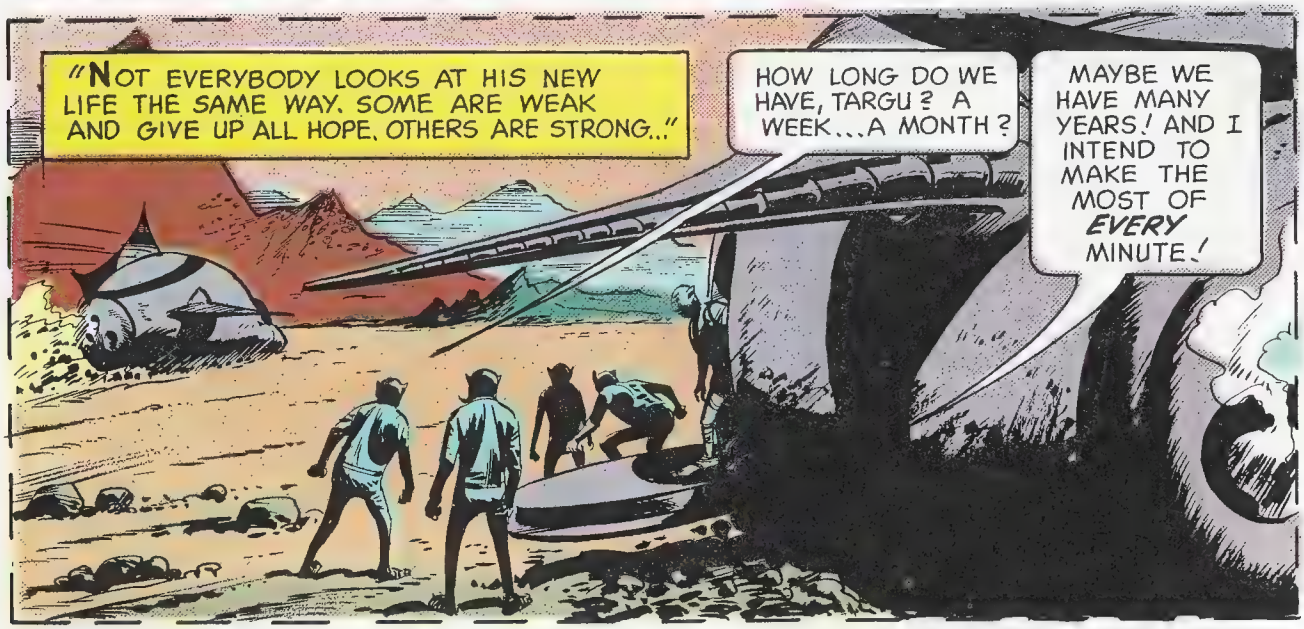

... AN INTERNAL VOLCANO THAT WILL BLOW THE PLANET INTO A SUPER NOVA WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS!

CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE 19:04.5--
WE ARE IN A DESPERATE PLIGHT! MR. SPOCK HAS JUST INFORMED US THAT THE CRIMINAL ASTEROID WE ARE UPON IS DUE TO EXPLODE WITHIN 24 HOURS... AND THERE IS NO CHANCE OF ESCAPE WITHOUT ENDANGERING THE ENTERPRISE AND HER MISSION...
TH-THE ASTEROID IS GOING TO EXPLODE! ARE YOU SURE, MR. SPOCK?
POSITIVE, CAPTAIN KIRK!
SO...THE SECRET OF ASTEROID X IS OUT, EH, KIRK!
SO THAT'S HOW YOU GALAXY KILLERS ARE EXECUTED...BY EXPLODING ASTEROIDS?
EXACTLY! A MOST UNIQUE MANNER OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, IS IT NOT?
YOU SEE, IT HAS THE ADDED BEAUTY OF MENTAL TORTURE... FOR NONE KNOW JUST WHEN THE SUPER NOVA EFFECT WILL TAKE PLACE...
ONLY YOUR INGENIOUS MR. SPOCK HAS LEARNED THAT!

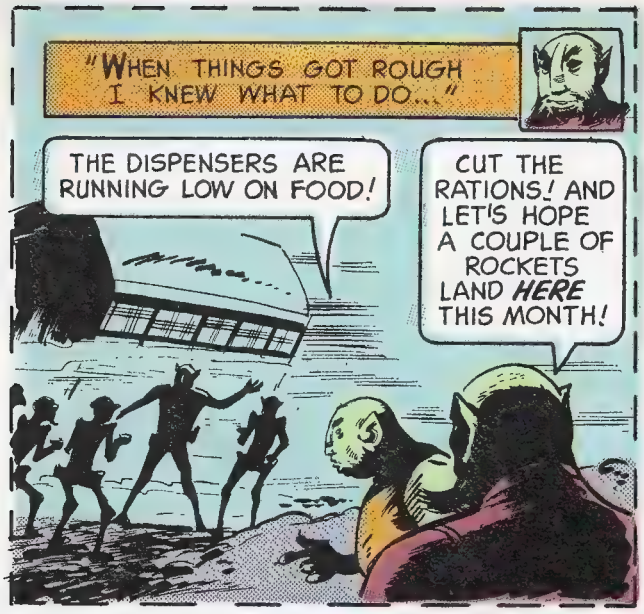

AS LARA, THE BETRAYER, INFORMED YOU -- WE CRIMINALS ARE LAUNCHED TO THE DEATH ASTEROIDS BY ROCKET...


"EACH MONTH THE CONDEMNED LEAVE THE HOME PLANET FOREVER IN ONE-WAY MISSILES..."

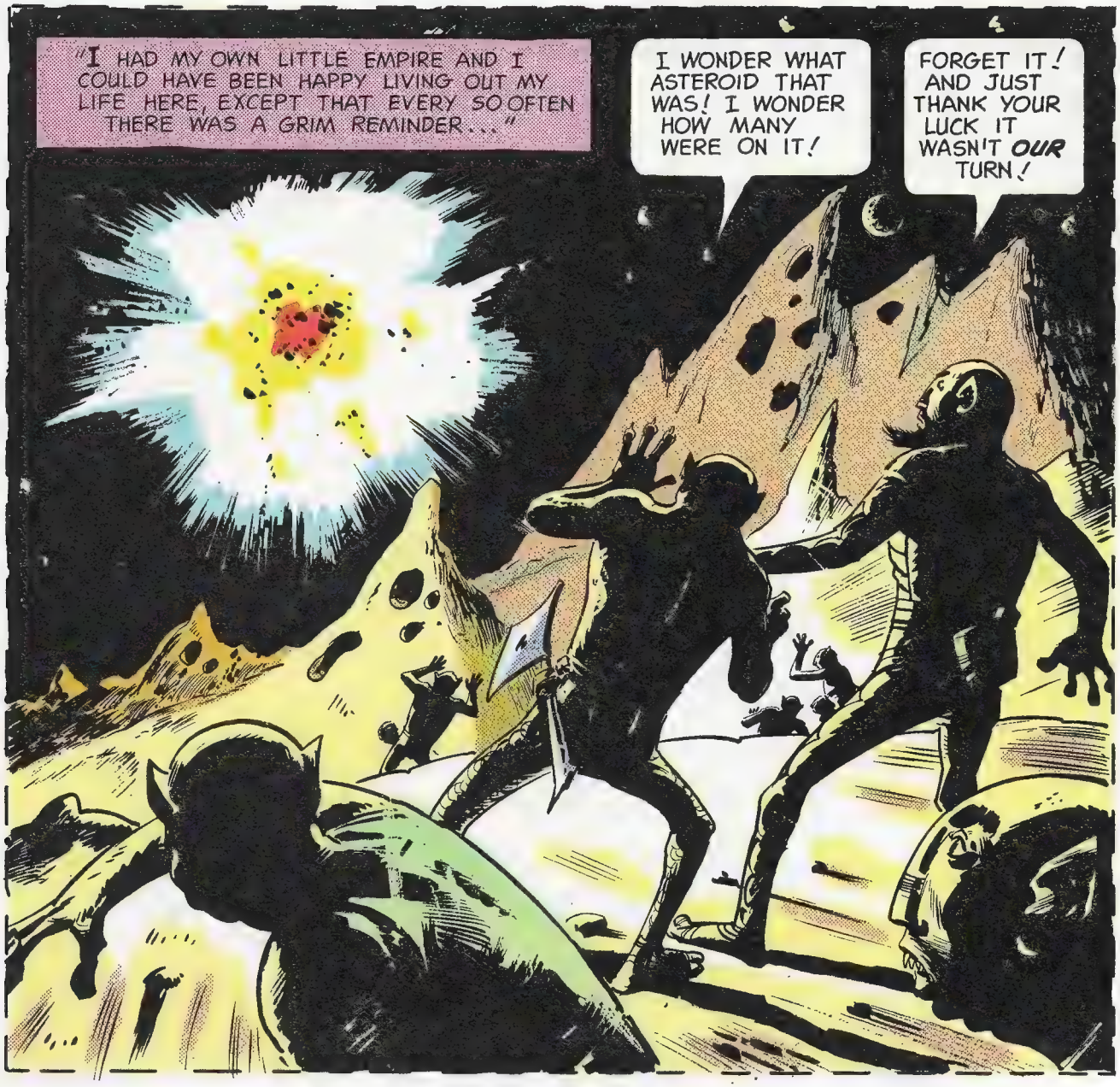
WHICH ASTEROID DO YOU THINK WE'LL LAND ON, TARGU?
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? THEY'RE ALL ALIKE!
EXCEPT FOR ONE THING... THEY DON'T ALL BLOW UP AT THE SAME TIME!


"NOT EVERYBODY LOOKS AT HIS NEW LIFE THE SAME WAY. SOME ARE WEAK AND GIVE UP ALL HOPE. OTHERS ARE STRONG..."
HOW LONG DO WE HAVE, TARGU? A WEEK...A MONTH?
MAYBE WE HAVE MANY YEARS! AND I INTEND TO MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY MINUTE!

MOVE THAT FOOD DISPENSER OVER HERE WHERE WE CAN PROTECT IT! AND THEN GET THE DISPENSERS OUT OF THE OTHER SHIPS!
I'M ENTITLED TO MY RATIONS THE SAME AS EVERY-BODY ELSE!
YOU'LL GET RATIONS WHEN TARGU SAYS SO! IF YOU WANT TO EAT, YOU'LL WORK FOR TARGU!
"IN TIME WE DISMANTLED THE ROCKETS THAT BROUGHT US HERE AND MADE HALFWAY DECENT LIVING QUARTERS..."
IT ISN'T RIGHT, TARGU'S NO BETTER THAN THE REST OF US!
IF YOU WANT TO FIGHT IT OUT WITH THOSE KILLERS OF HIS, GO AHEAD! I'LL DO AS HE SAYS AND TAKE WHAT HE GIVES ME!
YES, CAPTAIN, I MADE THE PEOPLE ON THIS PLANET--ALL MURDERERS, THIEVES AND TOUGHS--RESPECT ME, FEAR ME, OBEY ME! TARGU ALWAYS MAKES OUT! TARGU ALWAYS SURVIVES!
I'M GLAD TO KNOW THE KIND OF CREATURE I'M DEALING WITH!


"WHEN THINGS GOT ROUGH I KNEW WHAT TO DO..."
THE DISPENSERS ARE RUNNING LOW ON FOOD!
CUT THE RATIONS! AND LET'S HOPE A COUPLE OF ROCKETS LAND HERE THIS MONTH!

"WHEN THE ROCKETS DID LAND, WE POUNCED ON THEM..."
WELCOME TO TARGU'S ASTEROID!
QUICKLY! UNLOAD THEIR DISPENSERS AND BRING THEM TO OUR AREA!

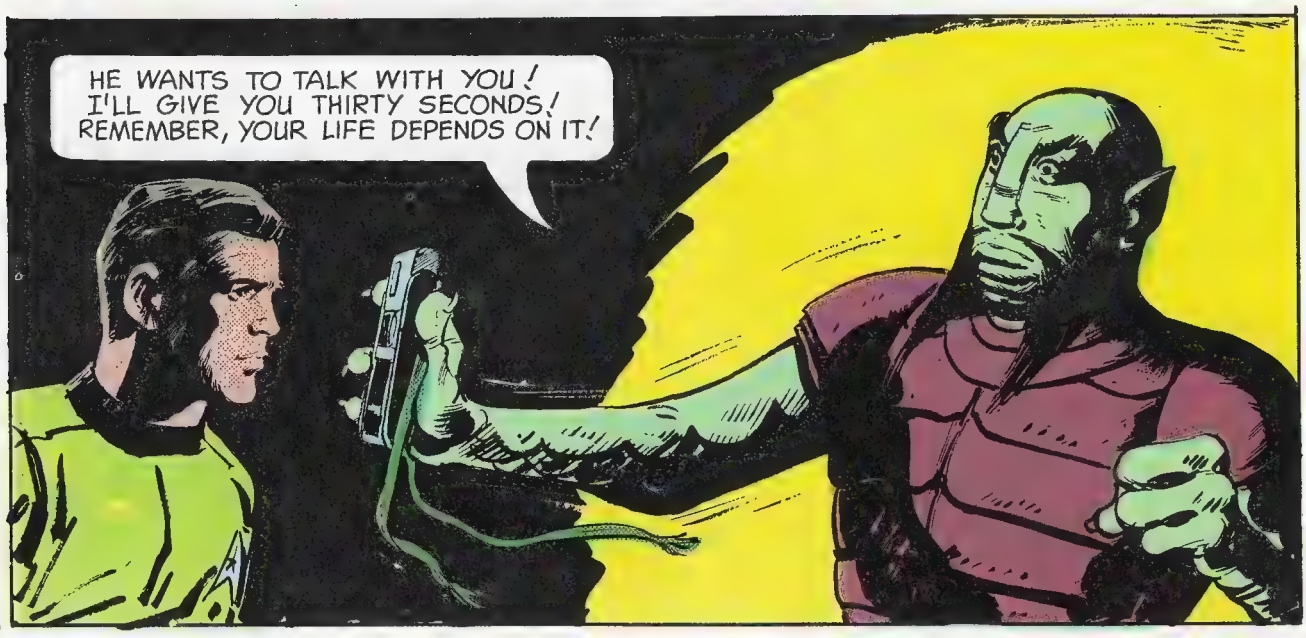

"I HAD MY OWN LITTLE EMPIRE AND I COULD HAVE BEEN HAPPY LIVING OUT MY LIFE HERE, EXCEPT THAT EVERY SO OFTEN THERE WAS A GRIM REMINDER..."
I WONDER WHAT ASTEROID THAT WAS! I WONDER HOW MANY WERE ON IT!
FORGET IT! AND JUST THANK YOUR LUCK IT WASN'T OUR TURN!

WELL, I GUESS IT *IS* OUR TURN NOW! GIVE ME THAT BLASTED RADIO OF YOURS, KIRK!

MR. SPOCK, THIS IS TARGU, THE *BIG BOSS* OF ASTEROID X! HEED MY WORDS WELL, GENIUS MAN OF THE ENTERPRISE!

YOUR CAPTAIN KIRK WILL BE JUST AS DEAD AS *WE* WILL IF YOU DON'T TELEPORT MY MEN TO YOUR SHIP WITH YOUR OWN!

NOT EVERYBODY, SPOCK, JUST ME AND MY LOYAL, TRUSTED MEN! ANSWER ME, SPOCK!
I TAKE MY ORDERS FROM MY CAPTAIN, *NOT* FROM YOU, TARGU! LET ME SPEAK WITH HIM!


HE WANTS TO TALK WITH YOU! I'LL GIVE YOU THIRTY SECONDS! REMEMBER, YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT!

BRING ONLY A HANDFUL OF HIS MEN ABOARD, IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR SAFETY! IT SEEMS LIKE AN ACCEPTABLE BARGAIN!
NO!

THIS CHARACTER IS DEADLY! AND CLEVER! I'M AT HIS MERCY NOW! AND HE ISN'T GOING TO TURN ME LOOSE ON BOARD THE ENTERPRISE! HE'LL HOLD A KNIFE AT MY THROAT EVERY SECOND!

BUT HE LEAVES US NO OTHER CHOICE, CAPTAIN!
YES, HE DOES, SPOCK-- ONE OTHER CHOICE! YOU'RE TO TAKE COMMAND OF THE ENTERPRISE AND TAKE HER AWAY FROM THIS POWDER KEG OF AN ASTEROID AS FAST AS YOU CAN! THAT'S AN ORDER, MR. SPOCK!

YOU WON'T DO IT, SPOCK! YOU CAN'T LEAVE THE CAPTAIN DOWN THERE--
SURELY, THERE MUST BE SOME WAY--
YOU HEARD THE CAPTAIN'S ORDER, GENTLEMEN!

ON THE OTHER HAND, YOU ALSO HEARD THE CAPTAIN GIVE ME COMMAND OF THE SHIP PRIOR TO THAT! SO TECHNICALLY, I AM NOT BOUND BY THAT ORDER!
SPOCK, YOUR VULCAN LOGIC WINS AGAIN!

HOWEVER, WE STILL HAVE TO RESCUE THE CAPTAIN WITHOUT BRINGING THOSE ALIEN MURDERERS ABOARD! AND WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME!
SHADES OF PLUTO! I THINK I HAVE THE ANSWER!

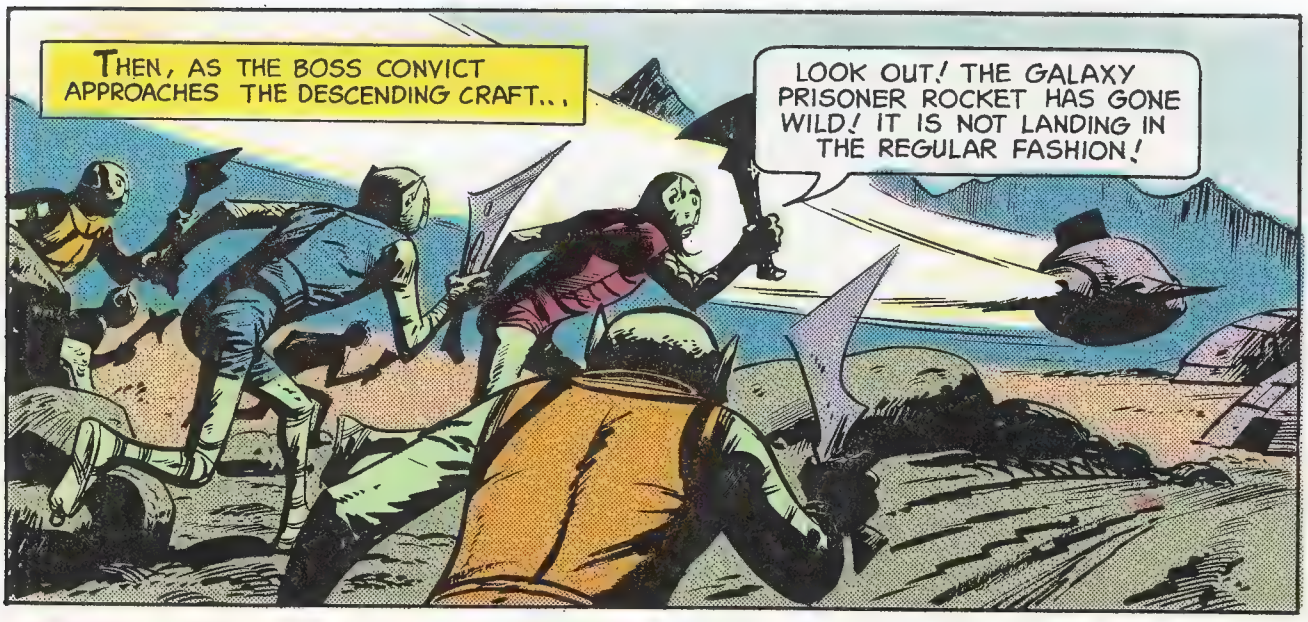
QUICKLY, SCOTTY, INTO DAMAGE CONTROL! WE HAVE WORK TO DO!

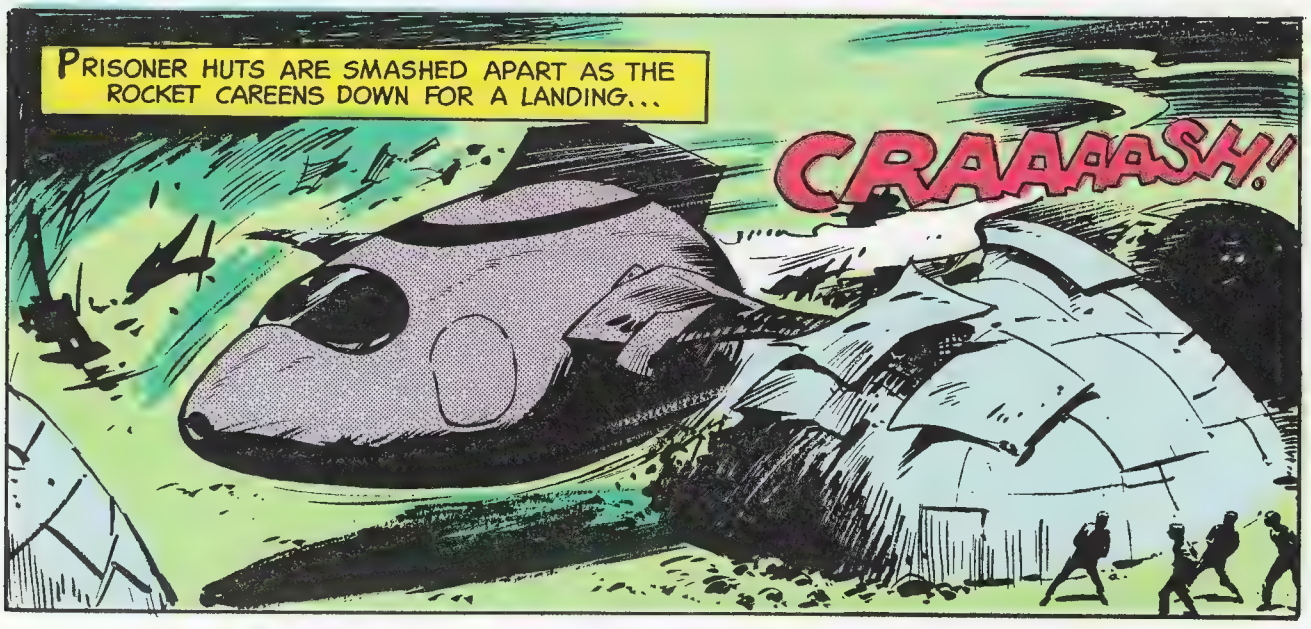
GET THOSE METAL SECTIONS DOWN! HAVE YOUR MEN READY FOR SOME SUPER-FAST CONSTRUCTION WORK! I'LL BE BACK IN A MINUTE!
THAT I WILL, MR. SPOCK...WHATEVER YOUR PLAN MIGHT BE!

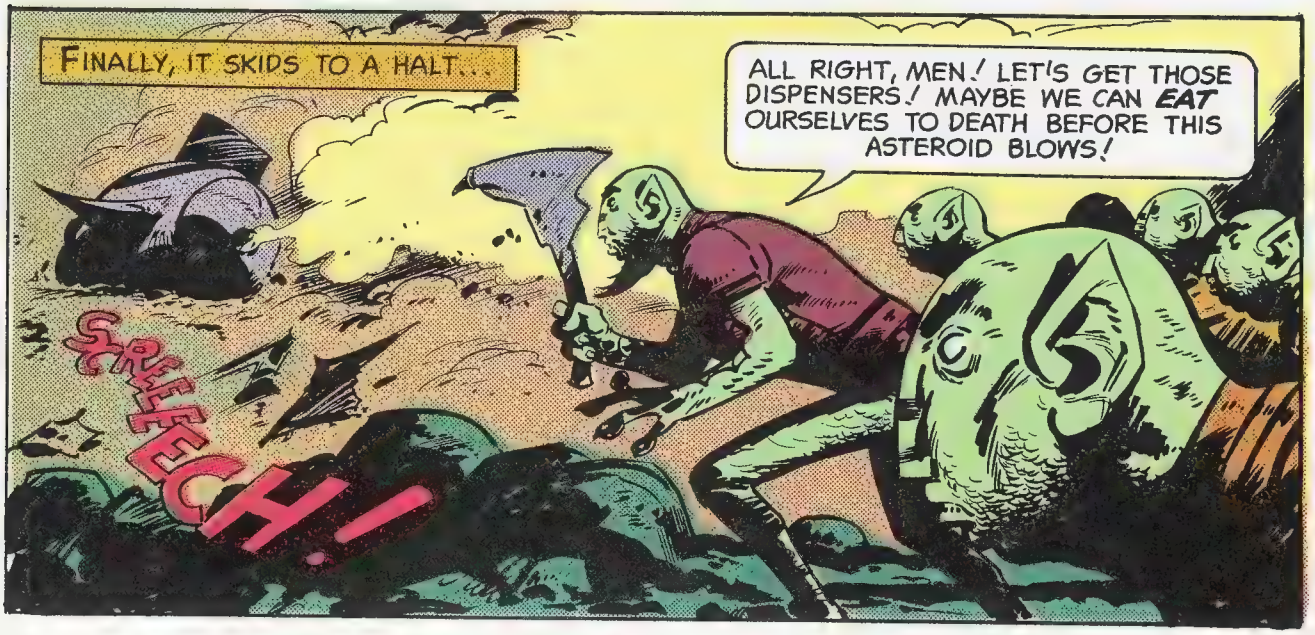
THROUGH THE NIGHT, THE ENTERPRISE TEAM AWAIT THEIR EXPLOSIVE FATE...
WHAT A SORRY WAY TO GO-- TRAPPED WITH KILLERS ON A DOOMED ASTEROID!
NOTHING, FOSTER, NOT EVEN OUR LIVES MUST JEOPARDIZE THE ENTERPRISE AND HER MISSION...

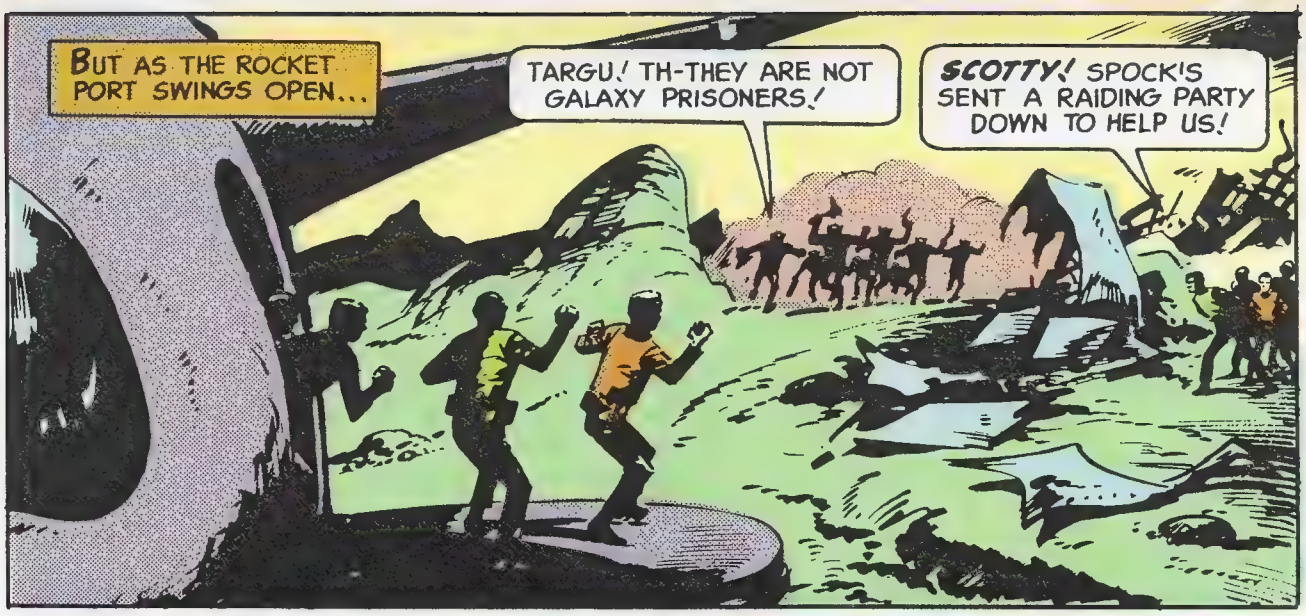
THAT'S THE IMPORTANT THING--FOR OUR SHIP OF THE STAR FLEET TO CONTINUE SEARCHING THE UNKNOWN AND UNLOCK ITS MYSTERIES!

HOURS LATER, AS DAWN BREAKS OVER THE DOOMED ASTEROID...
CAPTAIN KIRK! LOOK--THERE IN THE SKY!
WH-WHAT IS IT, FOSTER?
ROCKET TRAIL! WE'RE HAVING VISITORS!
BUT WHO WOULD WANT TO ROCKET DOWN ON A DOOMED ASTEROID?
THE GALAXY AUTHORITIES HAVE SENT MORE PRISONERS FOR EXECUTION! THE POOR FOOLS WILL HAVE LITTLE TIME TO LIVE!
THEY MUST HAVE FOOD DISPENSERS ABOARD! AT LEAST WE'LL HAVE ONE LAST FEAST!
COME ON, MEN!
LOOK AT THAT CHARACTER! A THIEF AND A THUG RIGHT TO THE END!


THEN, AS THE BOSS CONVICT APPROACHES THE DESCENDING CRAFT...
LOOK OUT! THE GALAXY PRISONER ROCKET HAS GONE WILD! IT IS NOT LANDING IN THE REGULAR FASHION!


PRISONER HUTS ARE SMASHED APART AS THE ROCKET CAREENS DOWN FOR A LANDING...
CRAAAAASH!


FINALLY, IT SKIDS TO A HALT...
ALL RIGHT, MEN! LET'S GET THOSE DISPENSERS! MAYBE WE CAN EAT OURSELVES TO DEATH BEFORE THIS ASTEROID BLOWS!
SKREECH!

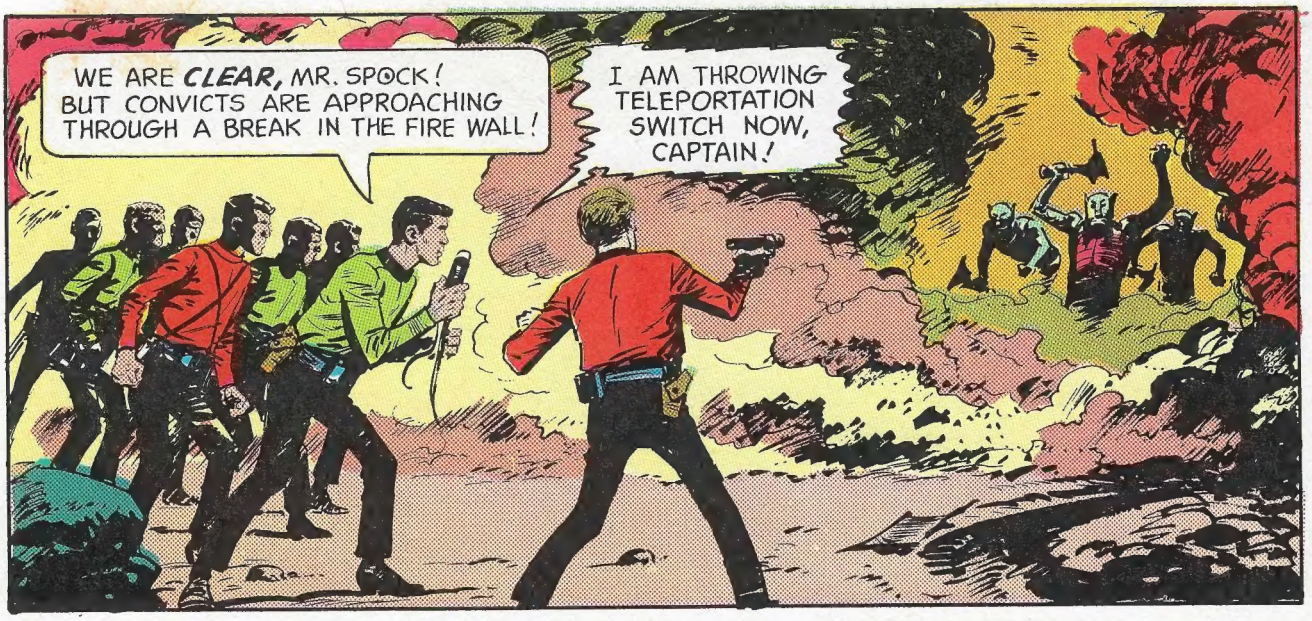

BUT AS THE ROCKET PORT SWINGS OPEN...
TARGU! TH-THEY ARE NOT GALAXY PRISONERS!
SCOTTY! SPOCK'S SENT A RAIDING PARTY DOWN TO HELP US!

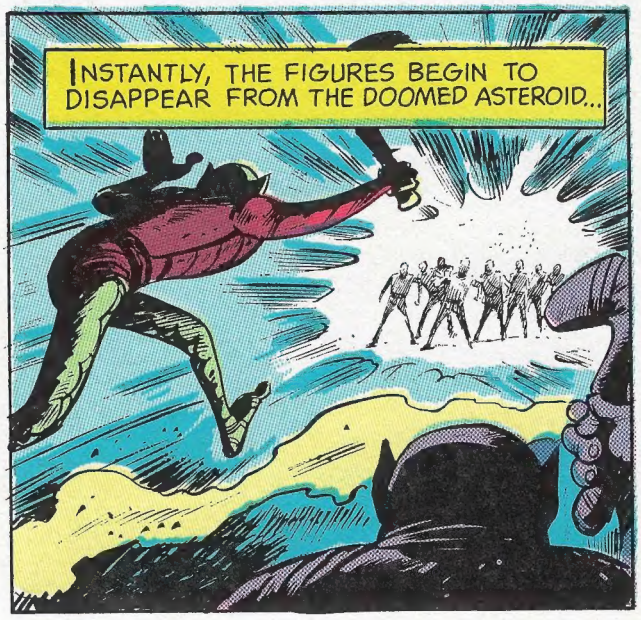
IT'S A TRICK! GET BACK TO OUR PRISONERS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

BUT IT IS ALREADY TOO LATE...
STAND FAST! WAIT FOR SCOTTY TO REACH US!

ABRUPTLY, MR. SPOCK'S VOICE CRACKLES OVER CAPTAIN KIRK'S RADIO...
CAPTAIN! IS MR. SCOTT'S RAIDING PARTY SUCCEEDING?
AFFIRMATIVE! HE'S ISOLATING THE CONVICTS WITH THOSE FIRE BOMBS!

HURRY, SIR! TELL SPOCK TO BEAM US ABOARD! THAT FIRE WALL WON'T LAST LONG!

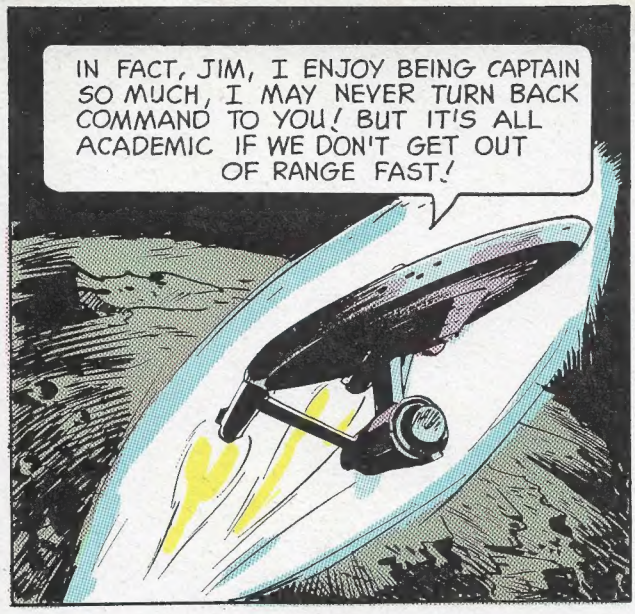

WE ARE CLEAR, MR. SPOCK! BUT CONVICTS ARE APPROACHING THROUGH A BREAK IN THE FIRE WALL!
I AM THROWING TELEPORTATION SWITCH NOW, CAPTAIN!


INSTANTLY, THE FIGURES BEGIN TO DISAPPEAR FROM THE DOOMED ASTEROID...

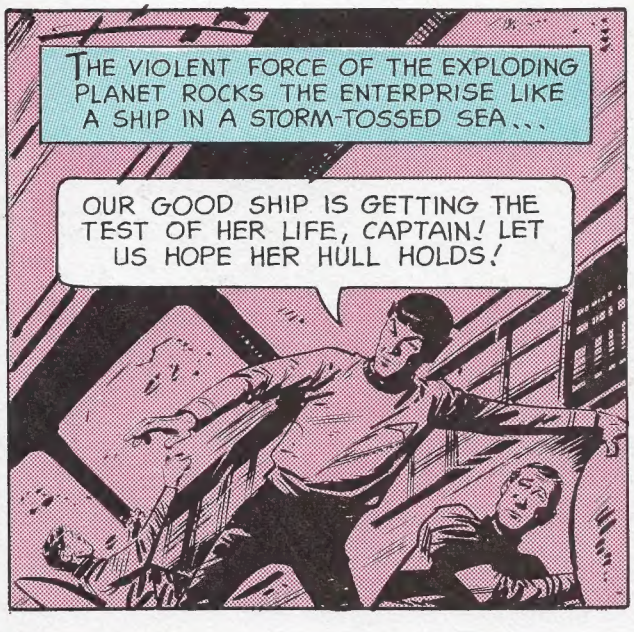
AND MOMENTS LATER THEIR BODIES TAKE FORM IN THE TELEPORTATION CHAMBER OF THE ENTERPRISE...
ALL ROCKETS ON FULL!

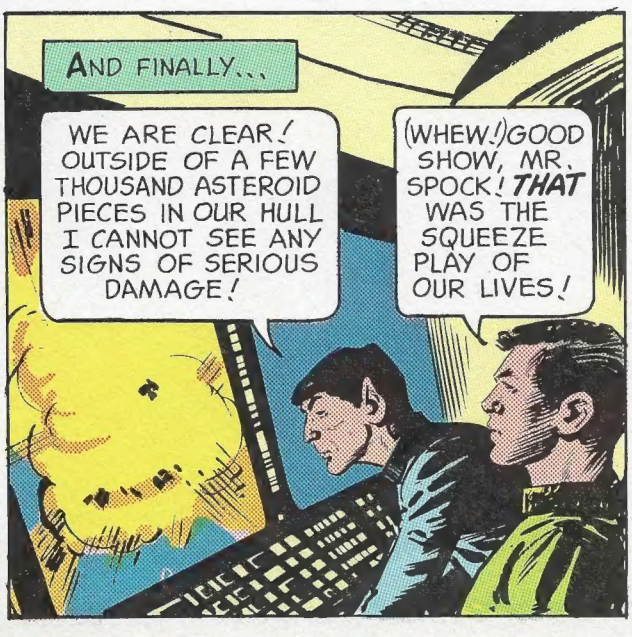
WHEN YOU INSPECTED THAT ROCKET YOU FOUND, JIM, I NEVER DREAMED HOW VALUABLE THAT INFORMATION--
SPOCK! YOU RISKED THIS SHIP AND THE LIVES OF EVERY MAN ABOARD!

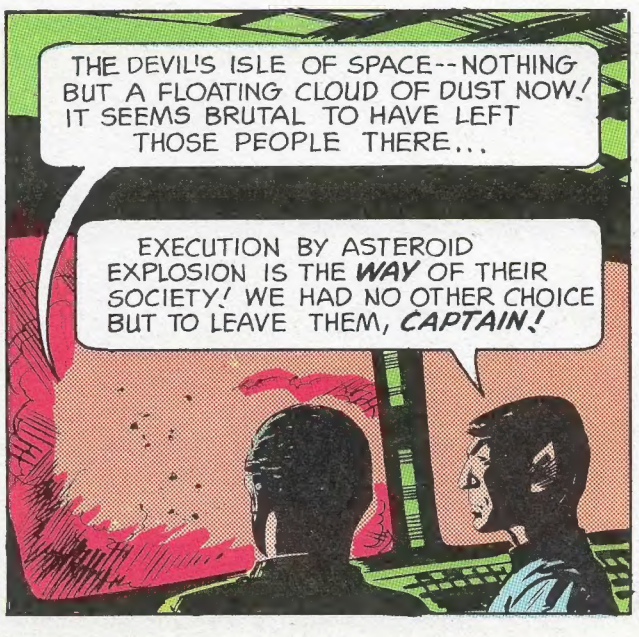
AS A MAN, I COULD FORGET THAT! BUT AS AN OFFICER, I CAN'T FORGET YOU DISOBEYED A DIRECT ORDER!
OH, BUT I DIDN'T, JIM, AS DR. McCOY AND MR. SCOTT WILL EXPLAIN!

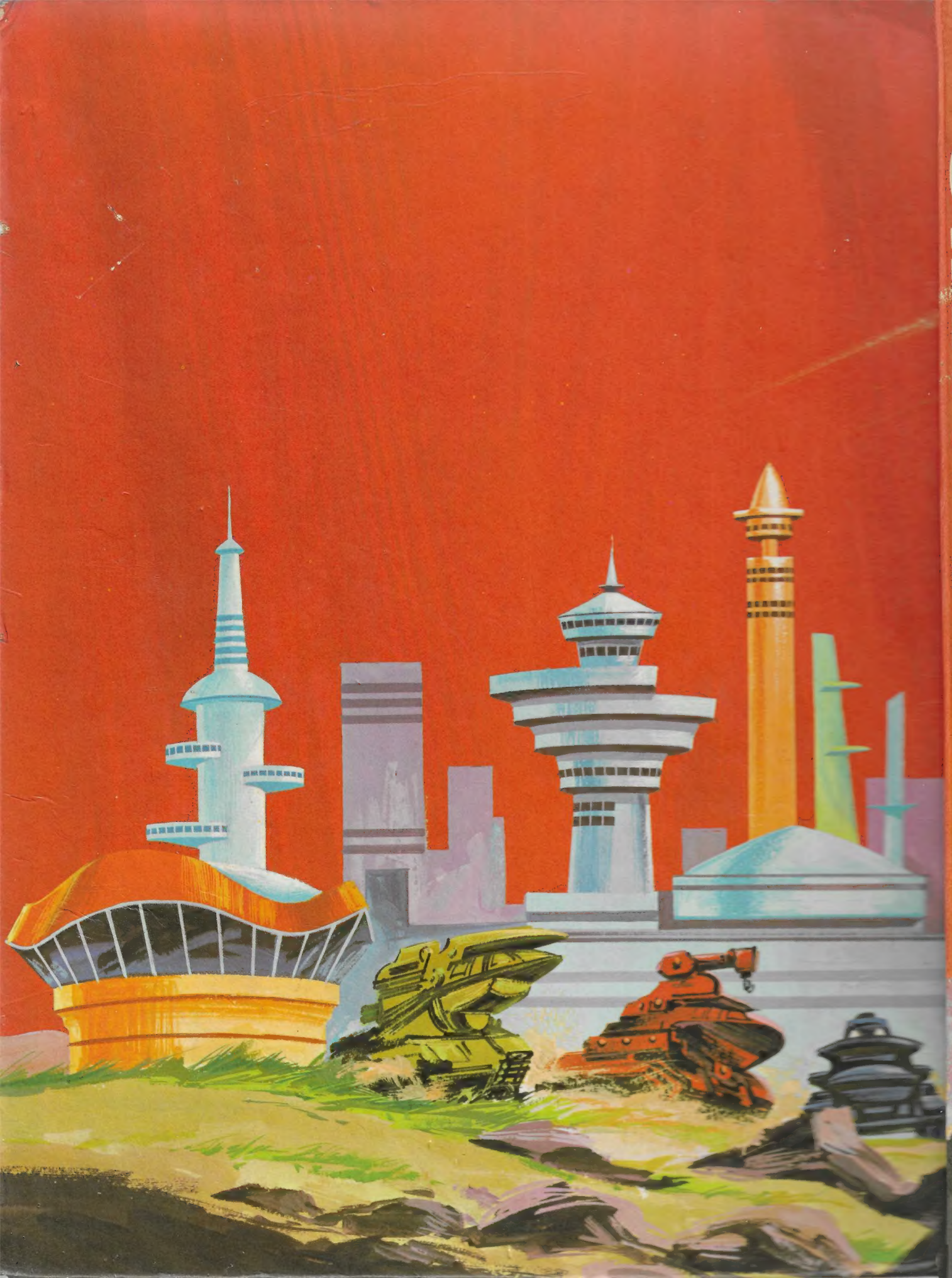

IN FACT, JIM, I ENJOY BEING CAPTAIN SO MUCH, I MAY NEVER TURN BACK COMMAND TO YOU! BUT IT'S ALL ACADEMIC IF WE DON'T GET OUT OF RANGE FAST!

FOR LONG SECONDS SHE STREAKS INTO SPACE! AND FAR BELOW, THE PRISONER PLANET SUDDENLY BURSTS ASUNDER...
THE ASTEROID HAS BLOWN! HOLD TIGHT, MEN! WE'RE STILL WITHIN HER CONCUSSION RANGE!
USS ENTERPRISE
NCC-1701


THE VIOLENT FORCE OF THE EXPLODING PLANET ROCKS THE ENTERPRISE LIKE A SHIP IN A STORM-TOSSED SEA...
OUR GOOD SHIP IS GETTING THE TEST OF HER LIFE, CAPTAIN! LET US HOPE HER HULL HOLDS!


AND FINALLY...
WE ARE CLEAR! OUTSIDE OF A FEW THOUSAND ASTEROID PIECES IN OUR HULL I CANNOT SEE ANY SIGNS OF SERIOUS DAMAGE!
(WHEW!) GOOD SHOW, MR. SPOCK! THAT WAS THE SQUEEZE PLAY OF OUR LIVES!


THE DEVIL'S ISLE OF SPACE--NOTHING BUT A FLOATING CLOUD OF DUST NOW! IT SEEMS BRUTAL TO HAVE LEFT THOSE PEOPLE THERE...
EXECUTION BY ASTEROID EXPLOSION IS THE WAY OF THEIR SOCIETY! WE HAD NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO LEAVE THEM, CAPTAIN!



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